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KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
AND
ALTERNATE
MEDIA
AUTHORITY

4697



ONE
PENCE

**A mouthful
of cookies...**



in every bite!

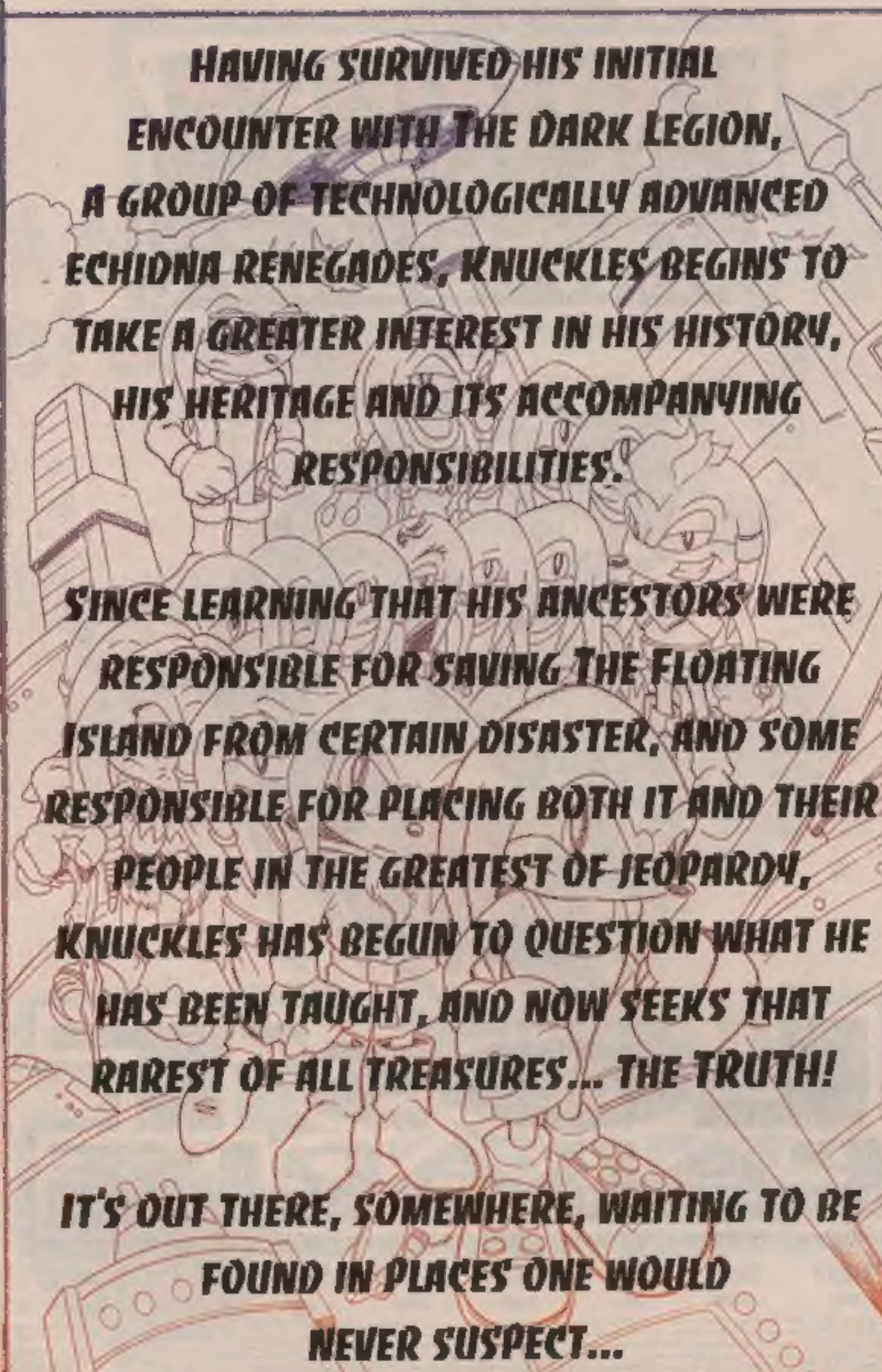
KNUCKLES™ **THE ECHIDNA** **BOOK FOUR**



LOST **PARADISE** **PART ONE OF THREE**

KEN	MANNY	ANDREW	BARRY	VICKIE	J. PREDDY	VICTOR	RICHARD
PENDERS	GANAN	PEPOY	GROSSMAN	WILLIAMS	GABRIE	GORELICK	GOLDWATER
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A detailed line drawing in the background shows Knuckles the Echidna on the right, looking towards the left with a determined expression. On the left, Ecliptor, a character with a large, ornate helmet and a long, pointed spear, is depicted in a dynamic pose. The scene is set against a backdrop of stylized, angular buildings and mechanical elements, suggesting a futuristic or industrial environment. The entire illustration is rendered in a light, sketchy style with some areas filled in with a light purple or blue color.

**HAVING SURVIVED HIS INITIAL
ENCOUNTER WITH THE DARK LEGION,
A GROUP OF TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED
ECHIDNA RENEGADES, KNUCKLES BEGINS TO
TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN HIS HISTORY,
HIS HERITAGE AND ITS ACCOMPANYING
RESPONSIBILITIES.**

**SINCE LEARNING THAT HIS ANCESTORS WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE FLOATING
ISLAND FROM CERTAIN DISASTER, AND SOME
RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING BOTH IT AND THEIR
PEOPLE IN THE GREATEST OF JEOPARDY,
KNUCKLES HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION WHAT HE
HAS BEEN TAUGHT, AND NOW SEEKS THAT
RAREST OF ALL TREASURES... THE TRUTH!**

**IT'S OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE, WAITING TO BE
FOUND IN PLACES ONE WOULD
NEVER SUSPECT...**

1 UNDER THE 2
STREAM—DOWN HERE
IT'S BETTER—TAKE
IT FROM ME—



WHOA!
WHAT WAS
THAT?

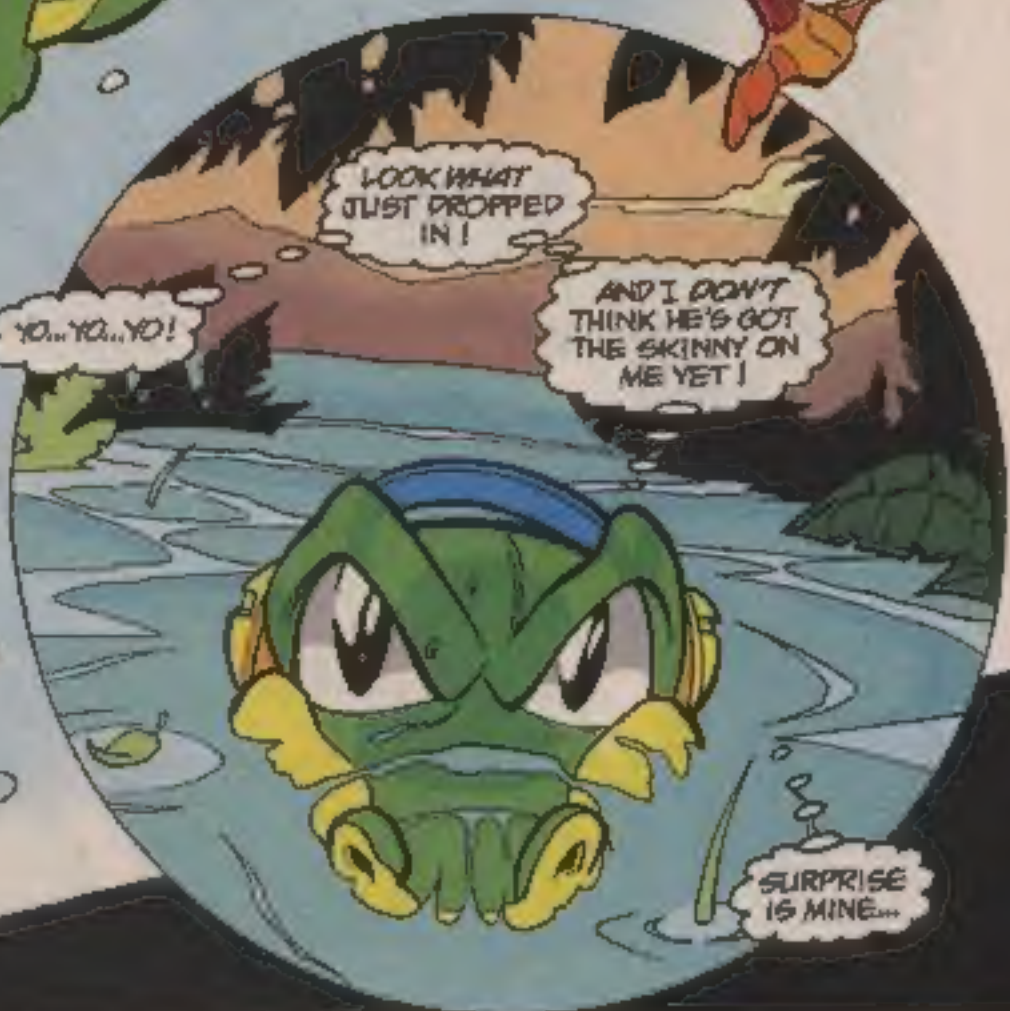


THOSE
SHADOWS I'M
SCOOPIN' NEAR THE
RIVERBANK COULD
BE TROUBLE!

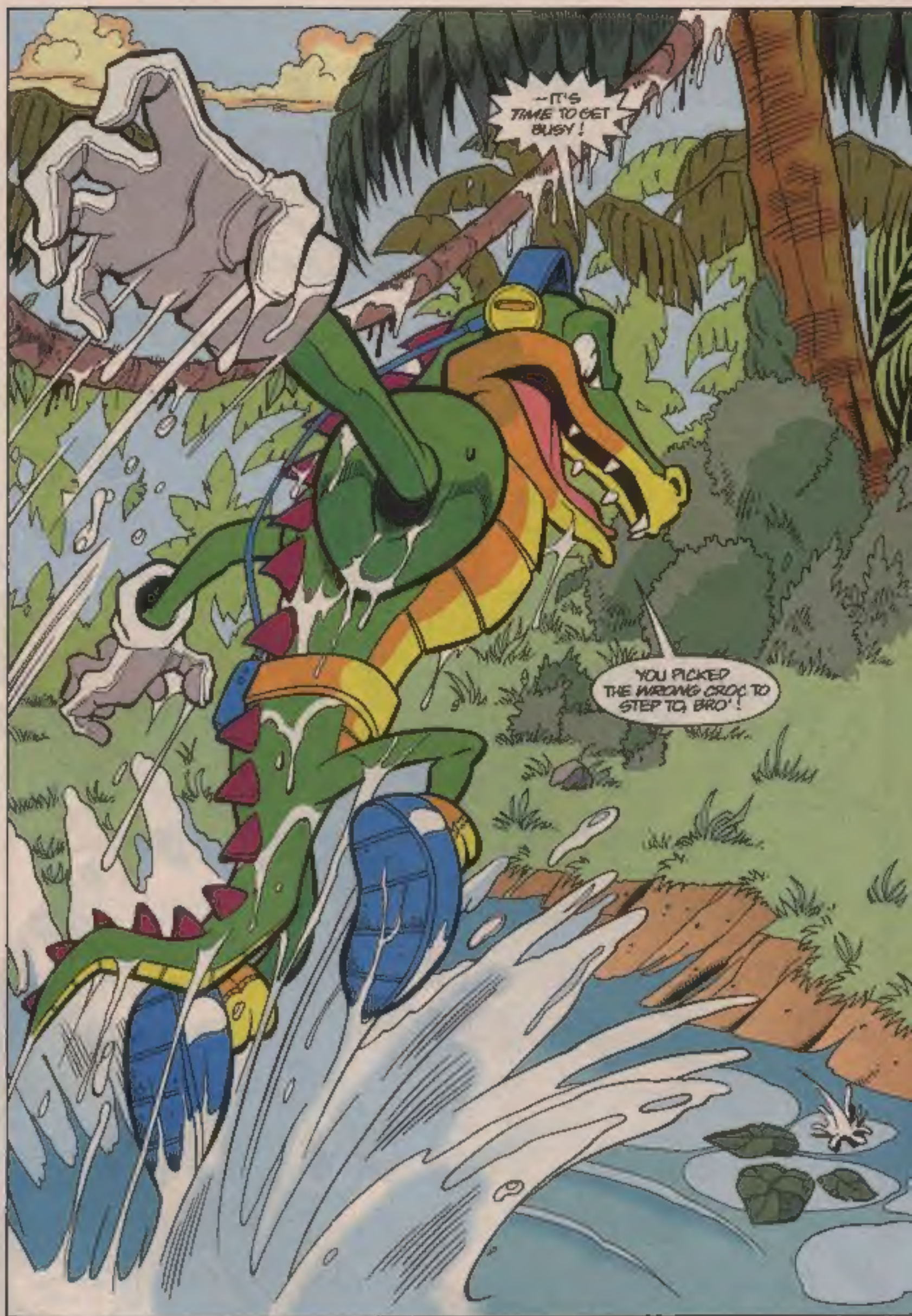
YO...YO...YO!

LOOK WHAT
JUST DROPPED
IN!

AND I DON'T
THINK HE'S GOT
THE SKINNY ON
ME YET!



SURPRISE
IS MINE...





THE PHANTOM CITY



SO WE WERE HIKING TO THIS
REALLY COOL CAMPSITE FOR A
BOWL OF CAP'N CRUNCH!!



WHEN WE CAME TO THIS
WEIRD LOOKING BRIDGE!

THEN THE CAP'N DROPPED IN AND YELLED
"JUST THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT AND
GO FOR IT!"



HE THOUGHT OF THAT
SWEET DELICIOUS
CRUNCH GOT US RIGHT
OVER THAT BRIDGE!

HAT'S HOW WE GOT TO OUR
AWESOME CAMPSITE AND
OUR HUGE BOWLS OF
CAP'N CRUNCH® CEREAL!

YOU AND THE CAP'N
MAKE IT HAPPEN!

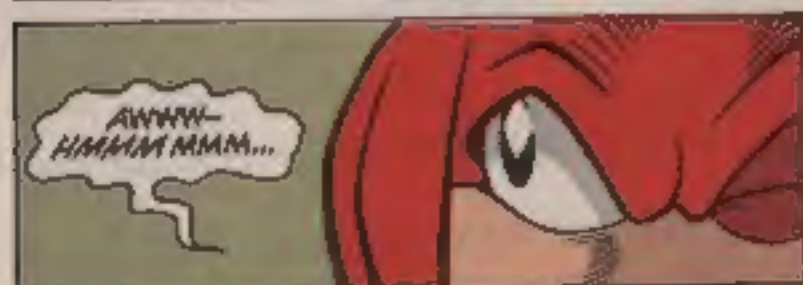


NOT VERY FAR AWAY, WE FIND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT...



AWWW--
HMMMMMM...

AWWW--
HMMMMMM...



AWWW--
HMMMMMM...



AWWW--
HMMMMMM...



I WISH YOU
TOOK YOUR MEDITATION
TRAINING MORE SERIOUSLY,
KNUCKLES!



IT'S A LOAD OF
MYSTIC MUMBO-JUMBO
THAT WASN'T ANY BENEFITS
I CAN SEE!



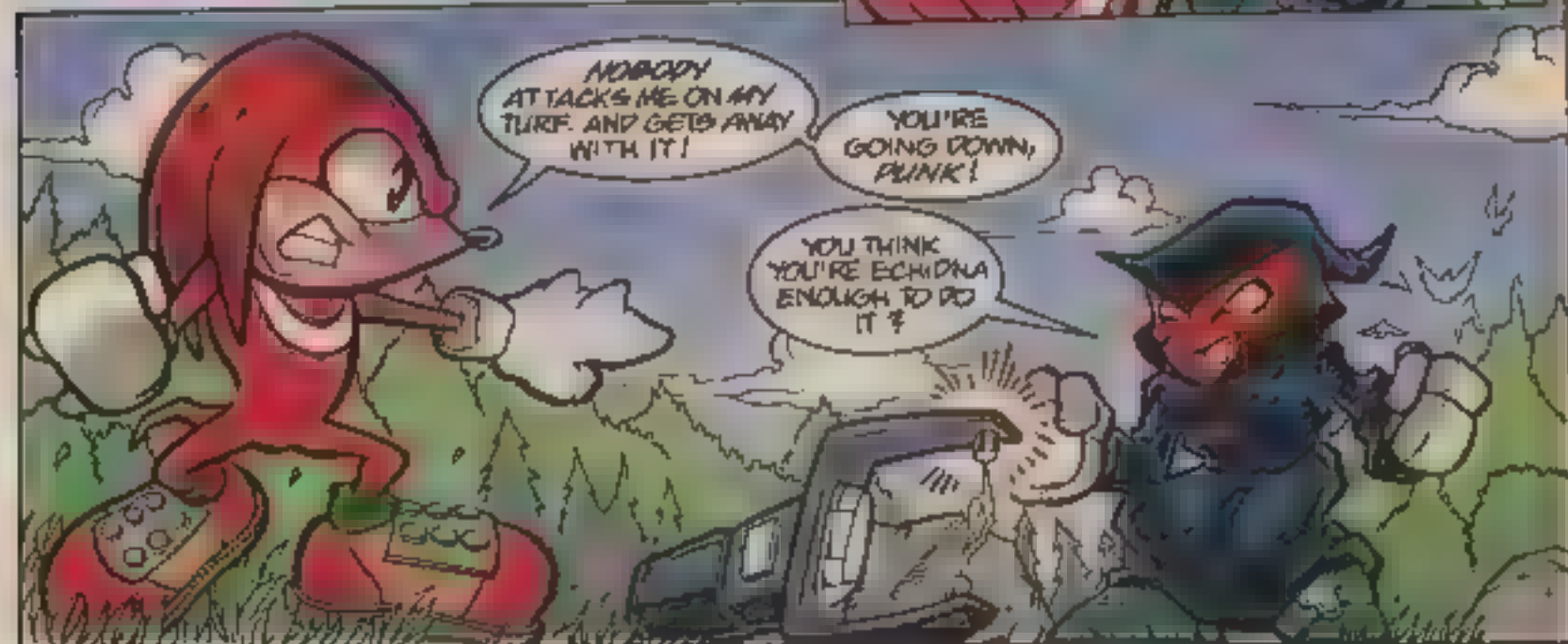
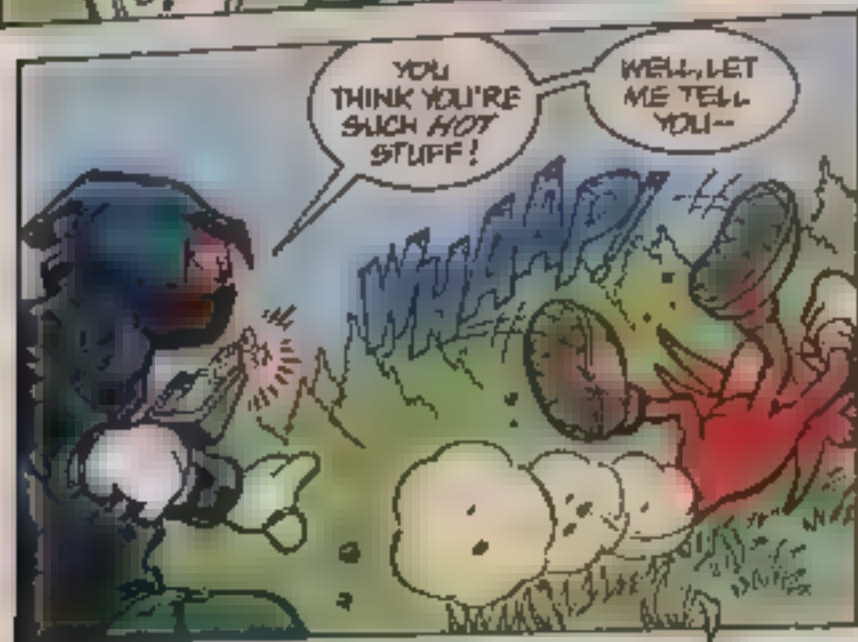
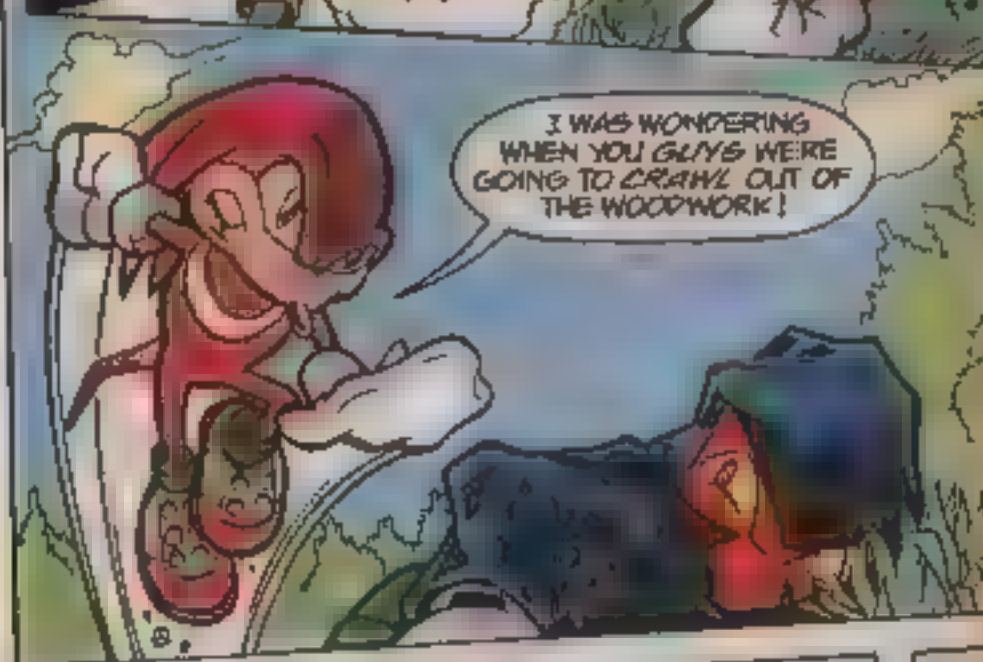
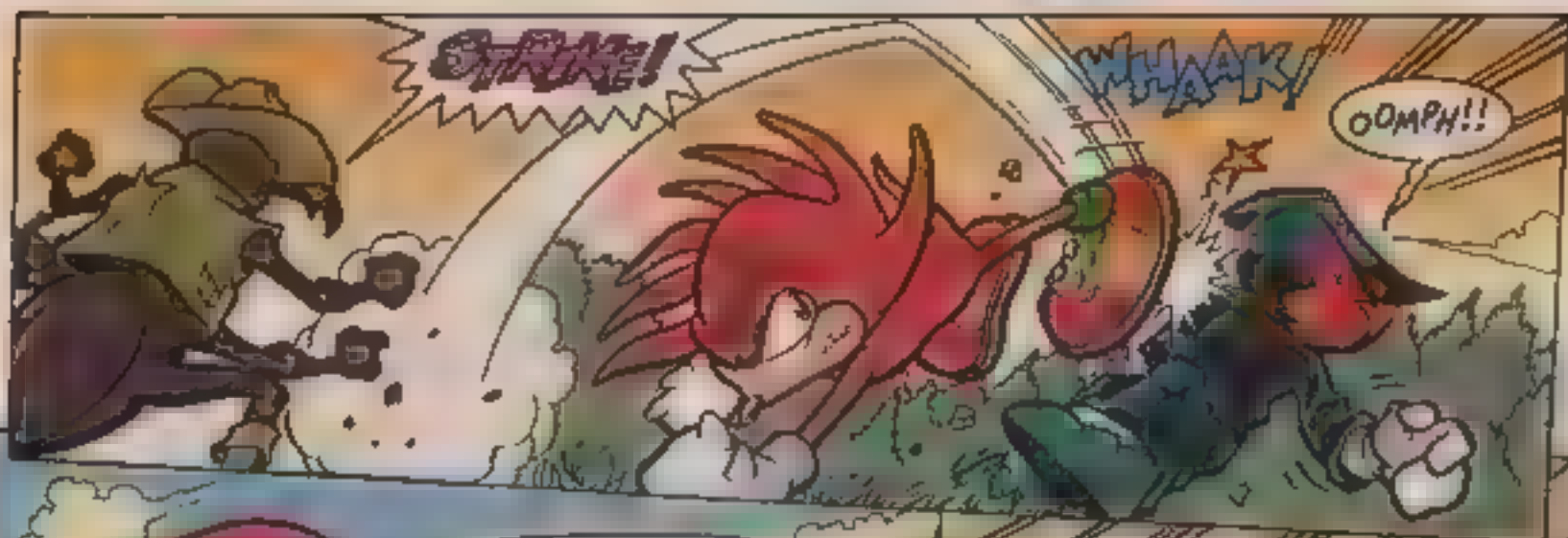
SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT IS
NOT SOMETHING
THAT OCCURS
WHEN--

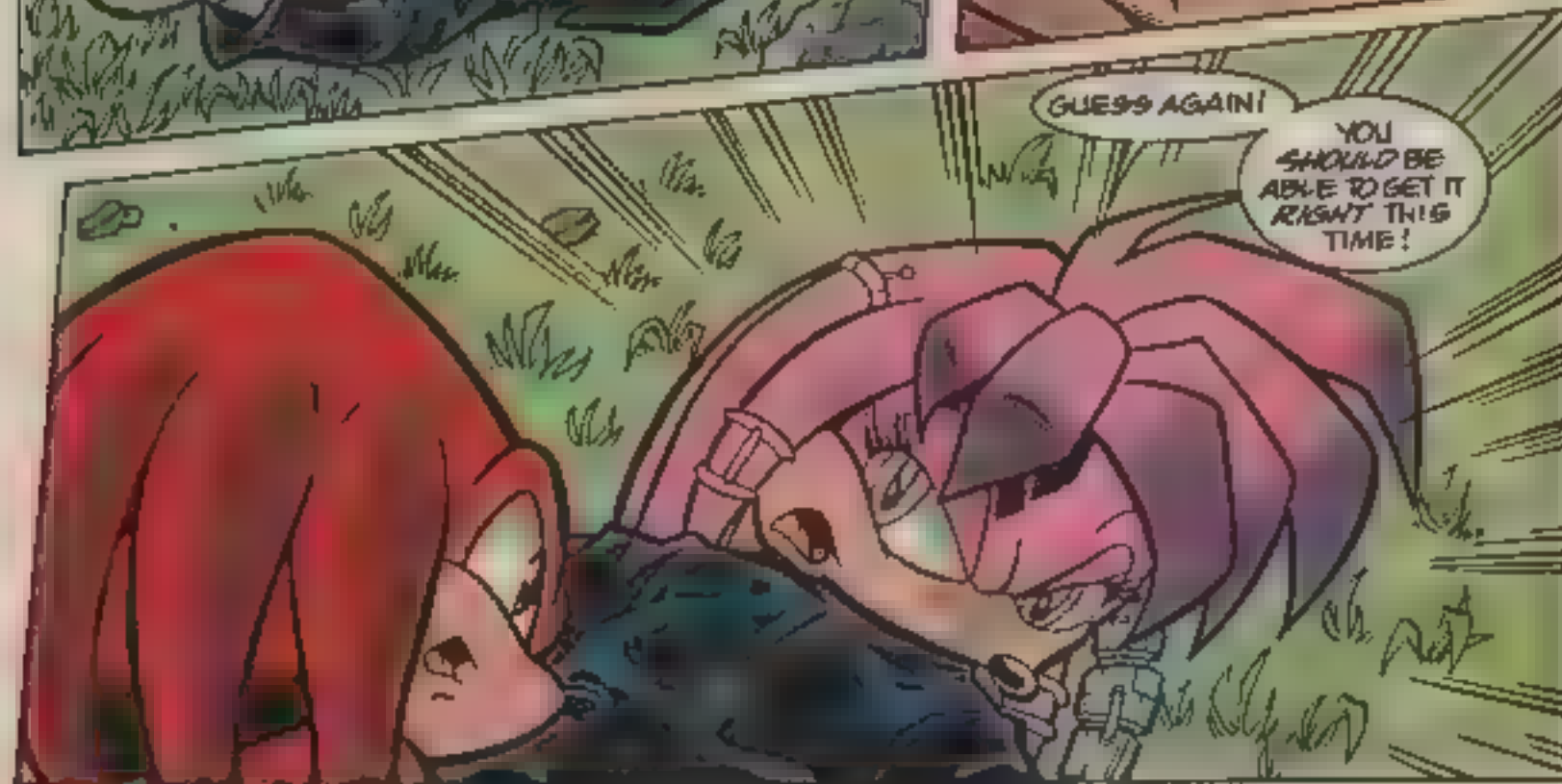
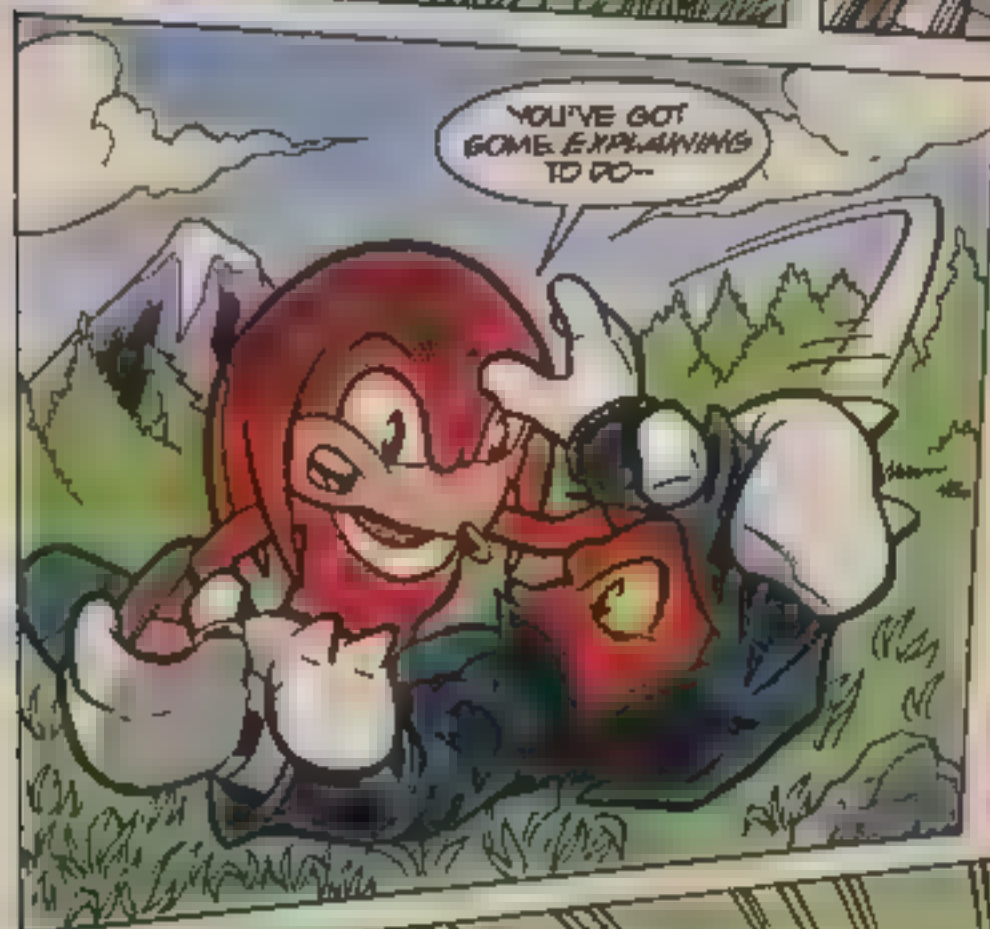
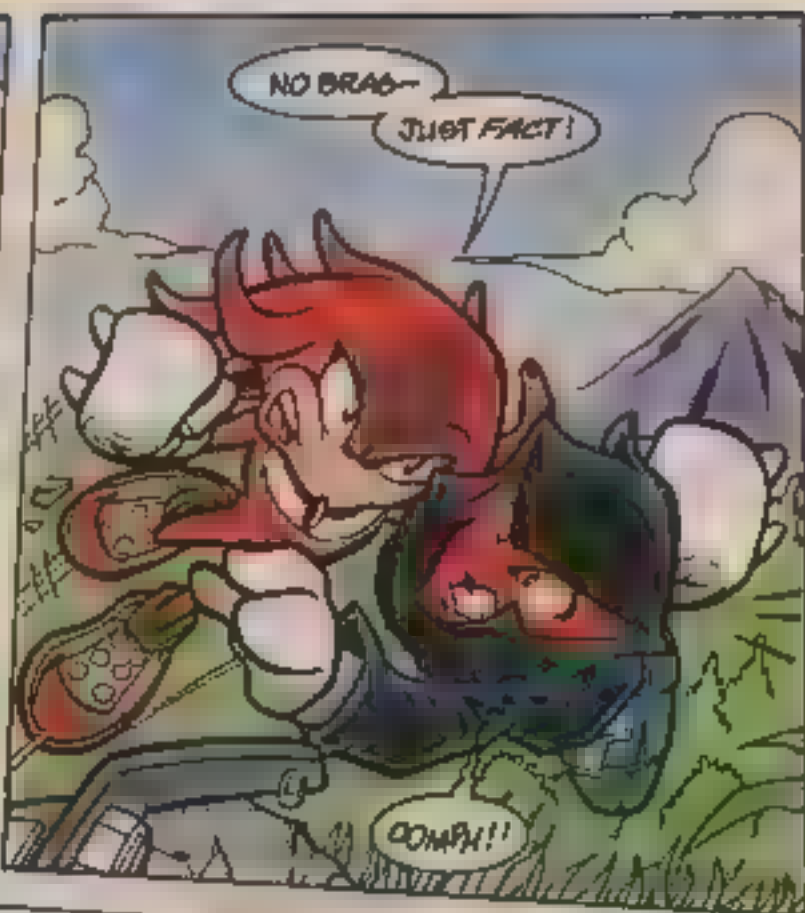
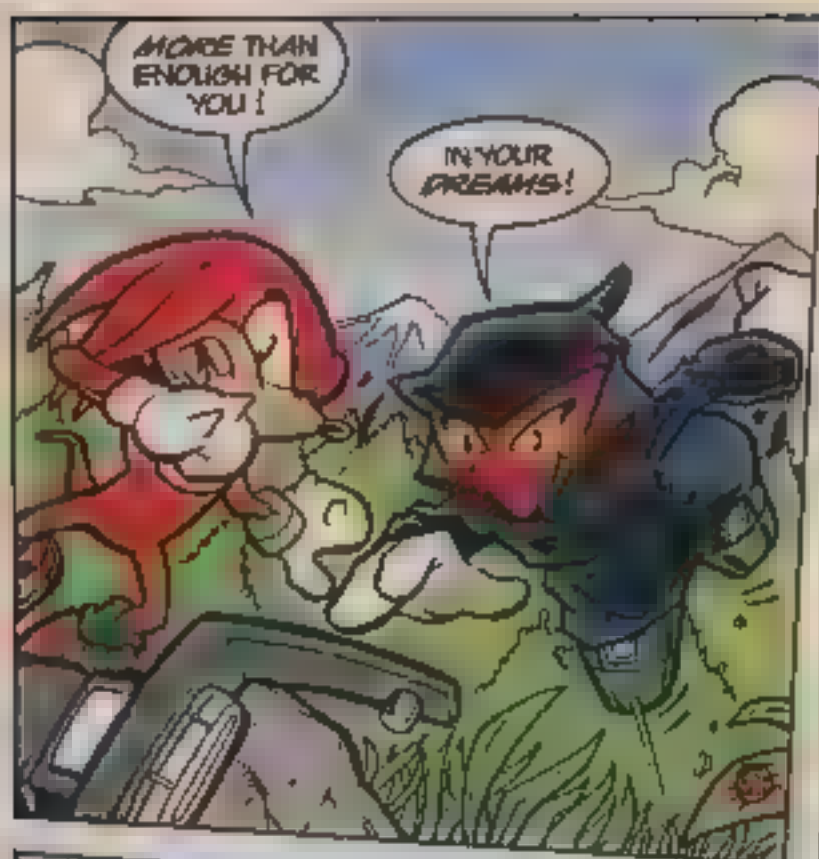
HOW!

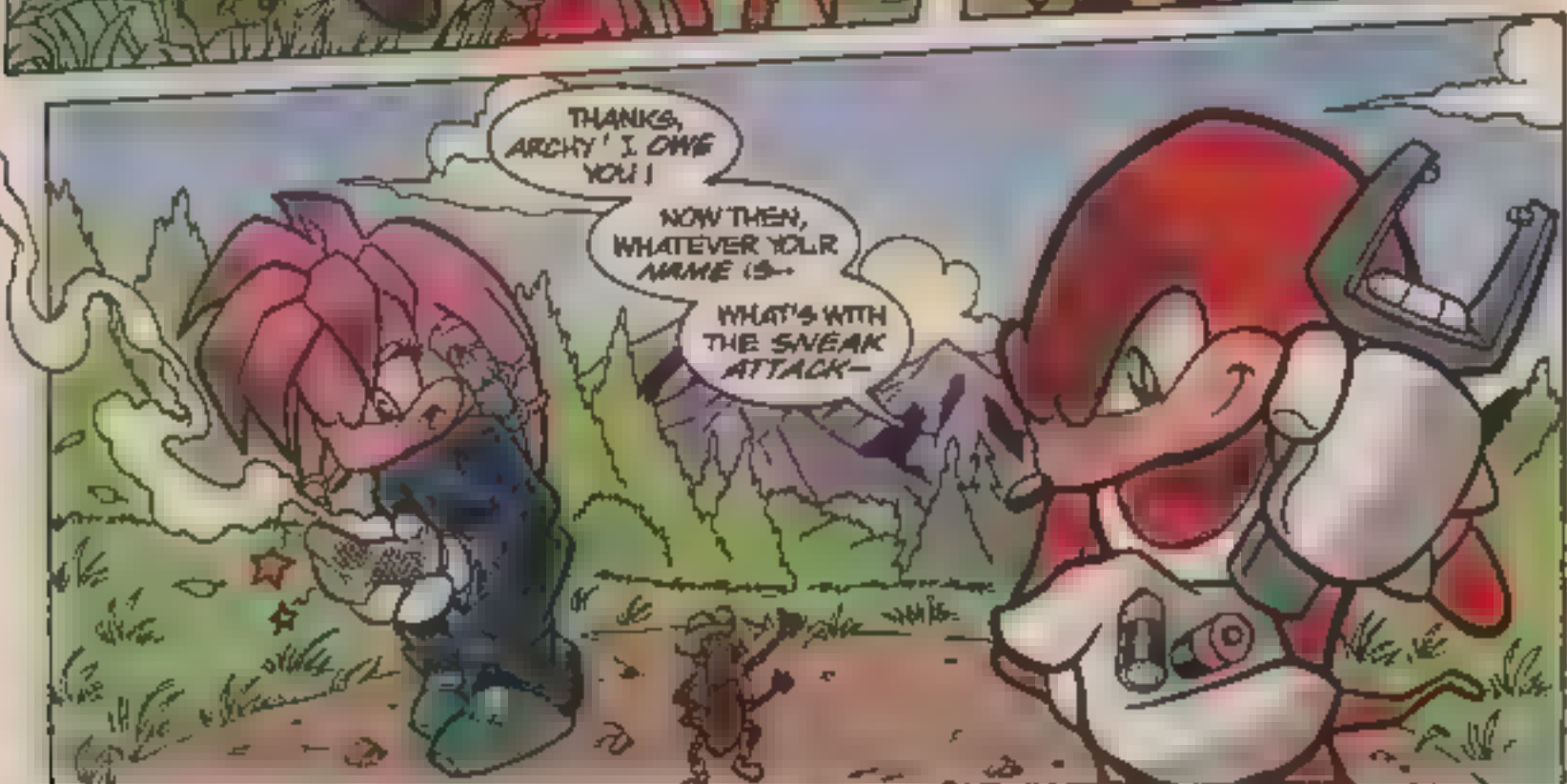
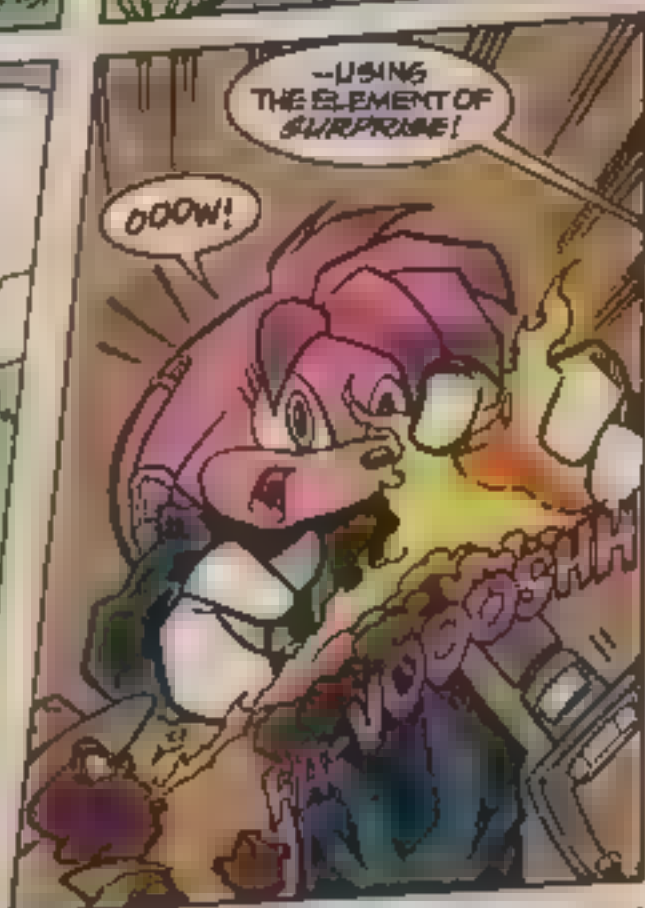
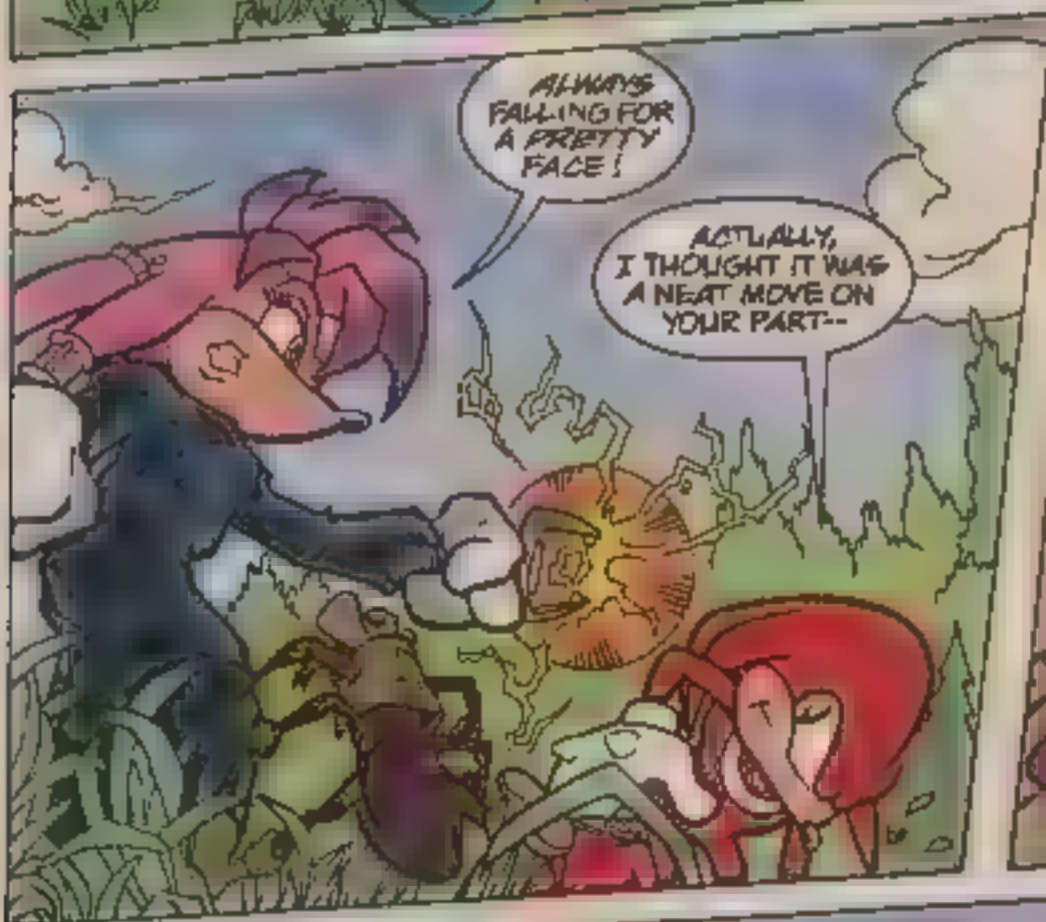
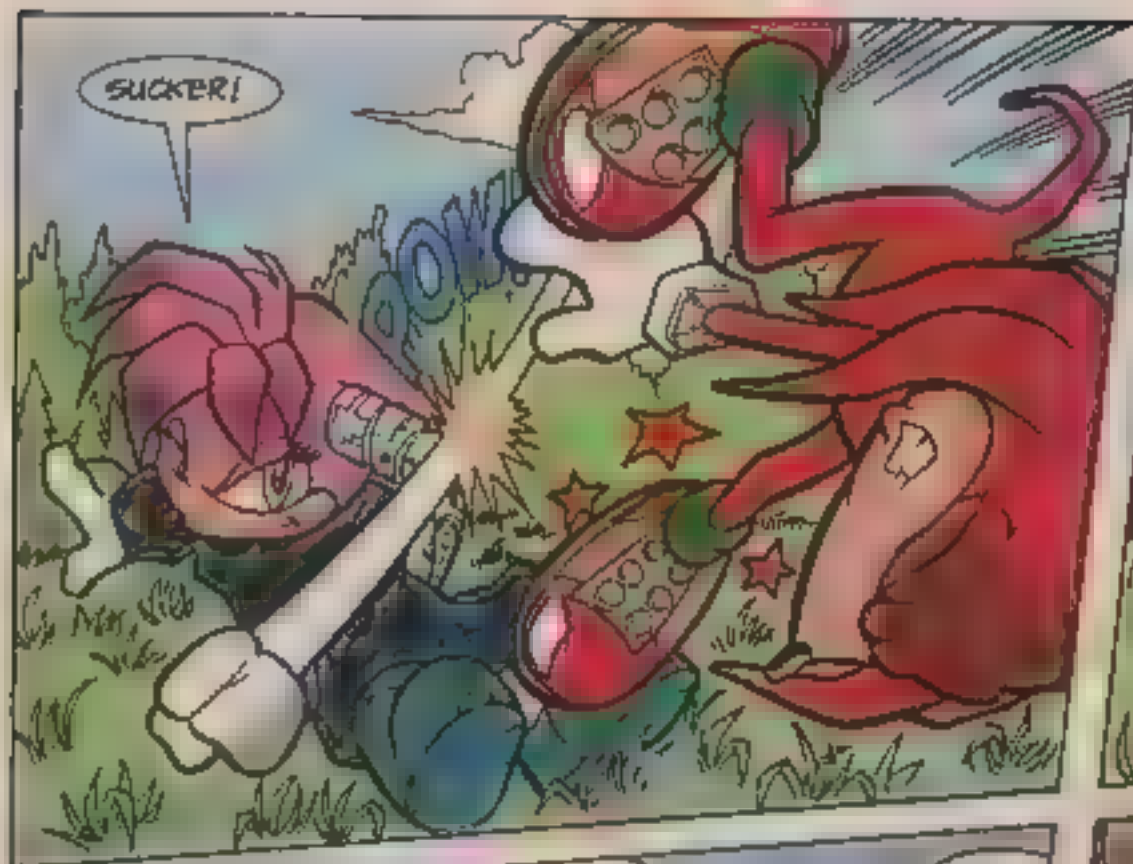


ARCHY,
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

ENEMY
APPROACHING
DIRECTLY FROM
BEHIND!
WHEN I GIVE THE
WORD--







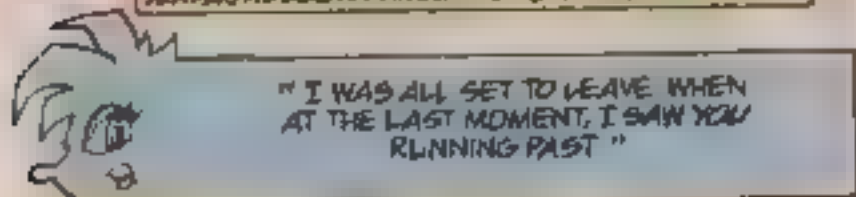


—AND WHERE'S THE REST OF KRABOK'S THUGS, FEMALE? "

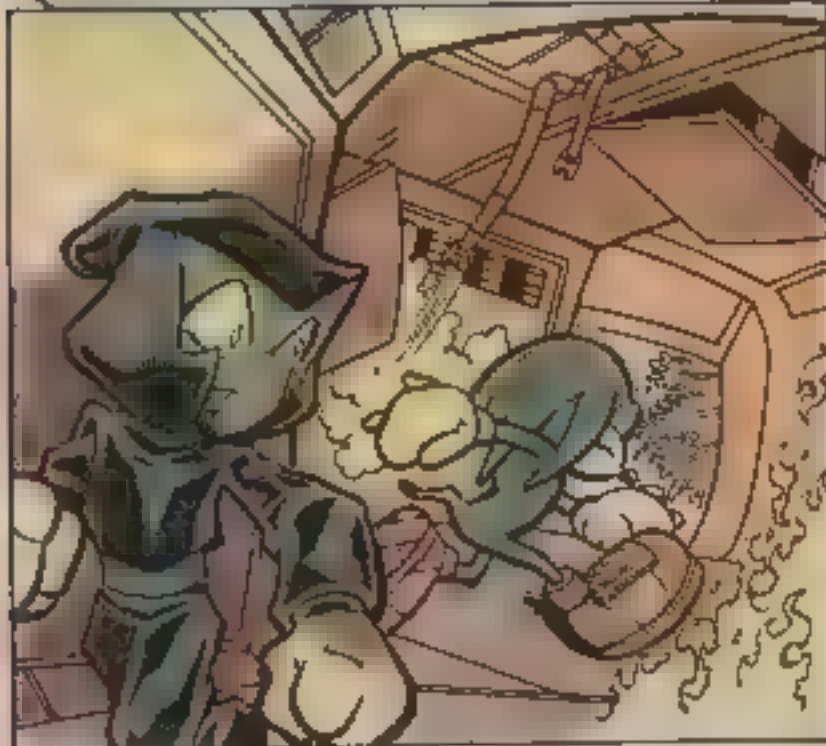
THE NAME IS JULIE SU, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE

YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT? "

"KNUCKLES IS REFERRING TO THE DARK LEGION AND ITS LEADER, AS BEEN IN KNUCKLES' "I THROUGH " JUSTIN



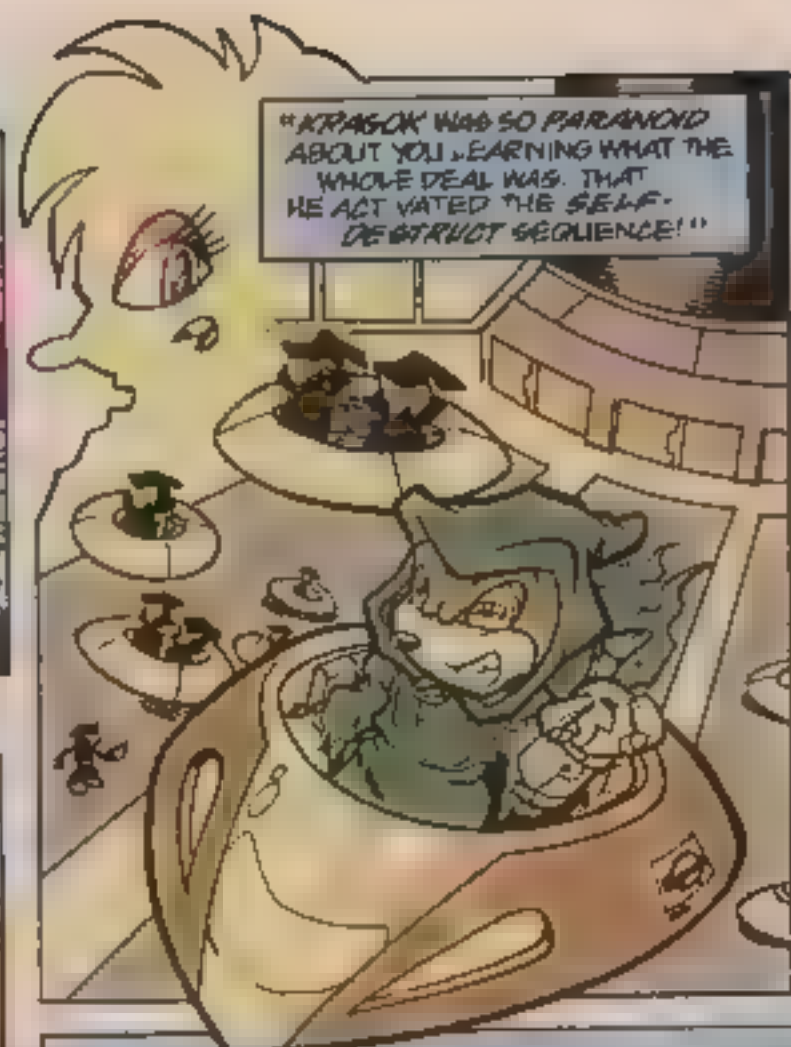
"I WAS ALL SET TO LEAVE WHEN AT THE LAST MOMENT, I SAW YOU RUNNING PAST "



THE FUNNY THING IS—

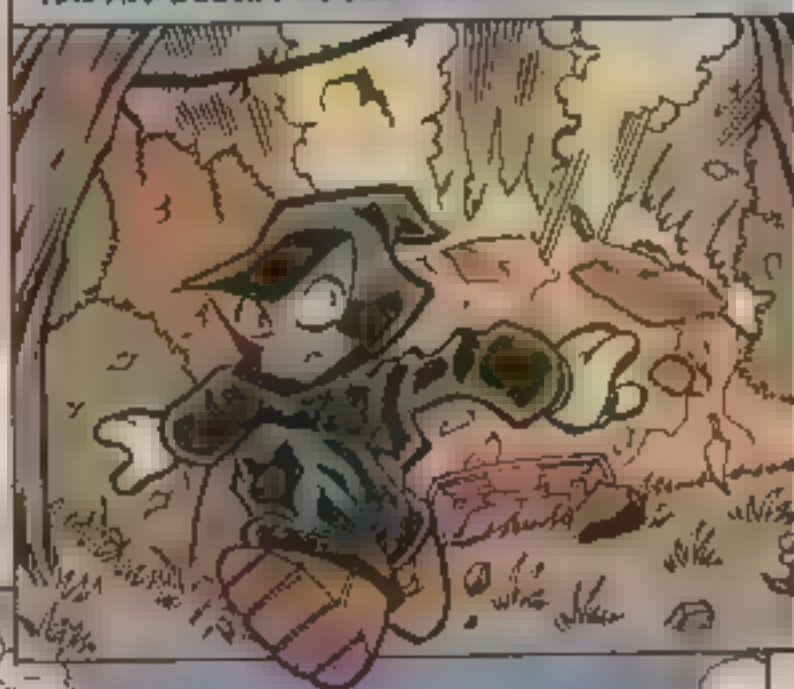
I WANTED TO REJOIN THE LEGION—

—BUT I JUST CAN'T. IT'S BEEN LIKE SOMEONE FORCING THE R WILL OVER MINE



"KRABOK WAS SO PARANOID ABOUT YOU LEARNING WHAT THE WHOLE DEAL WAS. THAT HE ACT VATED THE SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE! "

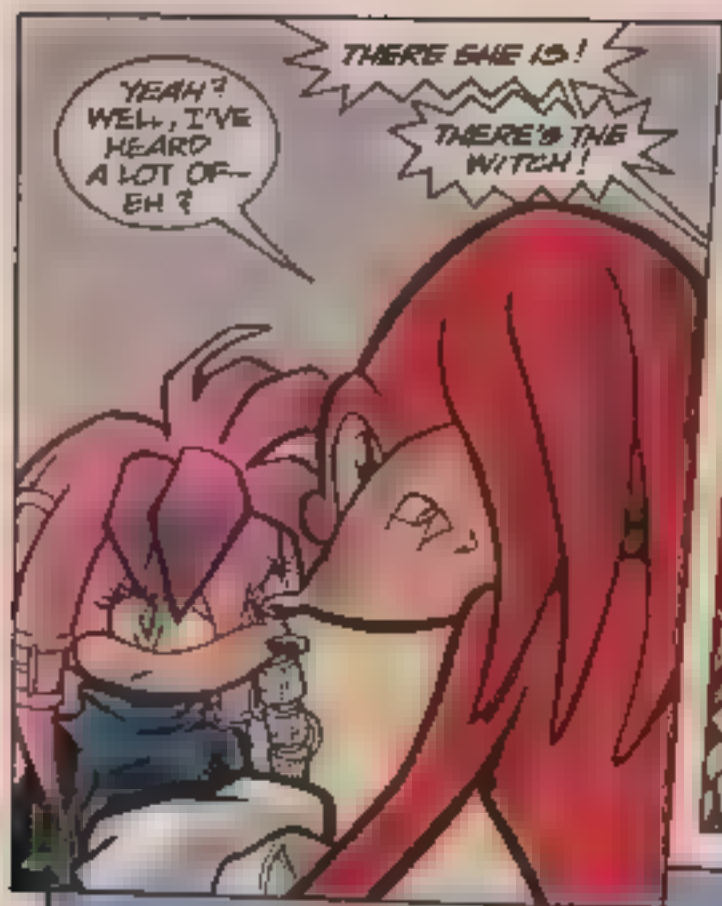
"I TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT THINGS GOT CRAZY, AND I WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST TO GET OUT ALIVE "



I HAD TO FIND YOU!

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY!

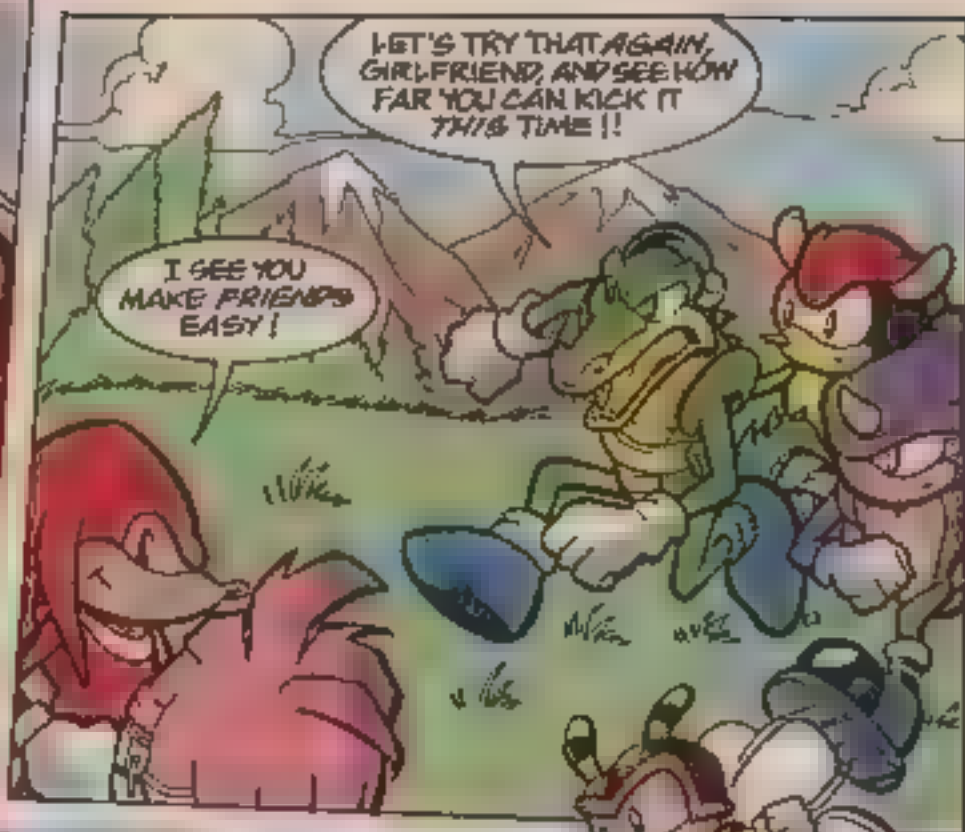
UH-OH!



YEAH? WELL, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF- EH?

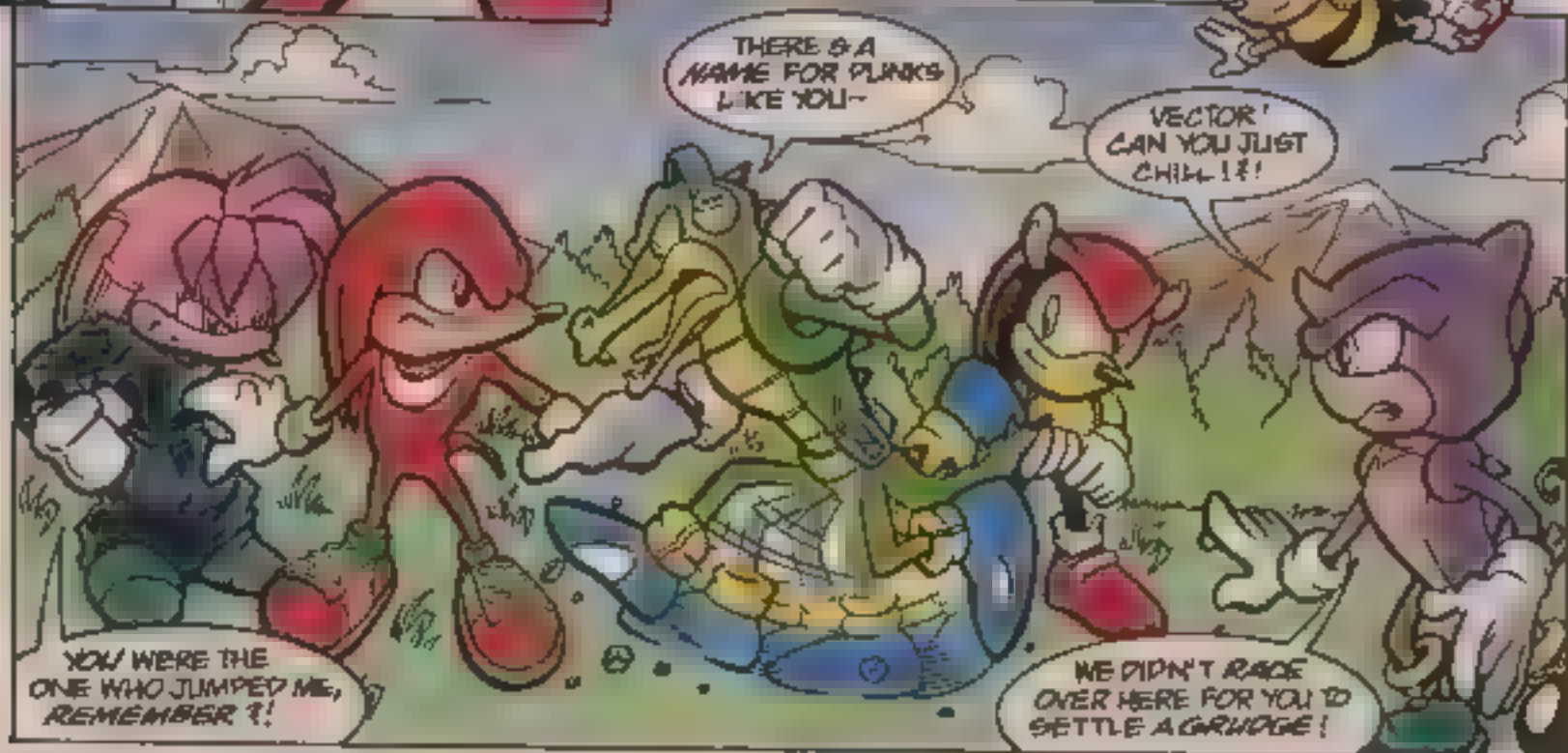
THERE SHE IS!

THERE'S THE WITCH!



I SEE YOU MAKE FRIENDS EASY!

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, GIRLFRIEND, AND SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN KICK IT THIS TIME!!

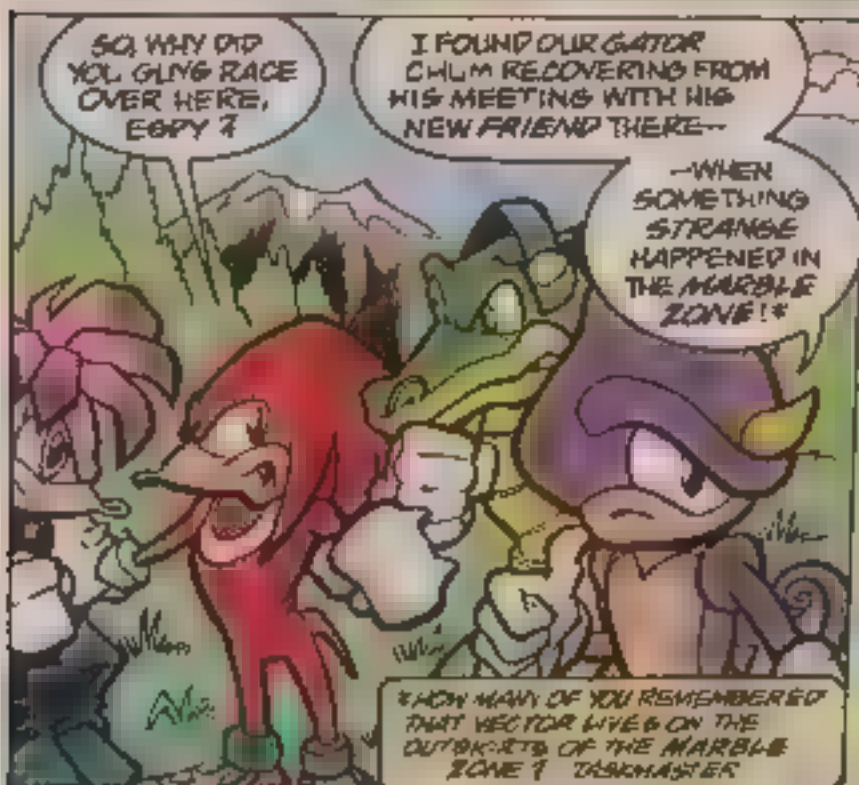


THERE'S A NAME FOR PLUNKS LIKE YOU-

VECTOR! CAN YOU JUST CHILL!!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO JUMPED ME, REMEMBER?!

WE DIDN'T RACE OVER HERE FOR YOU TO SETTLE A GRUDGE!



SO, WHY DID YOU GUYS RACE OVER HERE, EGGY?

I FOUND OUR GATOR CHUM RECOVERING FROM HIS MEETING WITH HIS NEW FRIEND THERE--

--WHEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED IN THE MARBLE ZONE!*

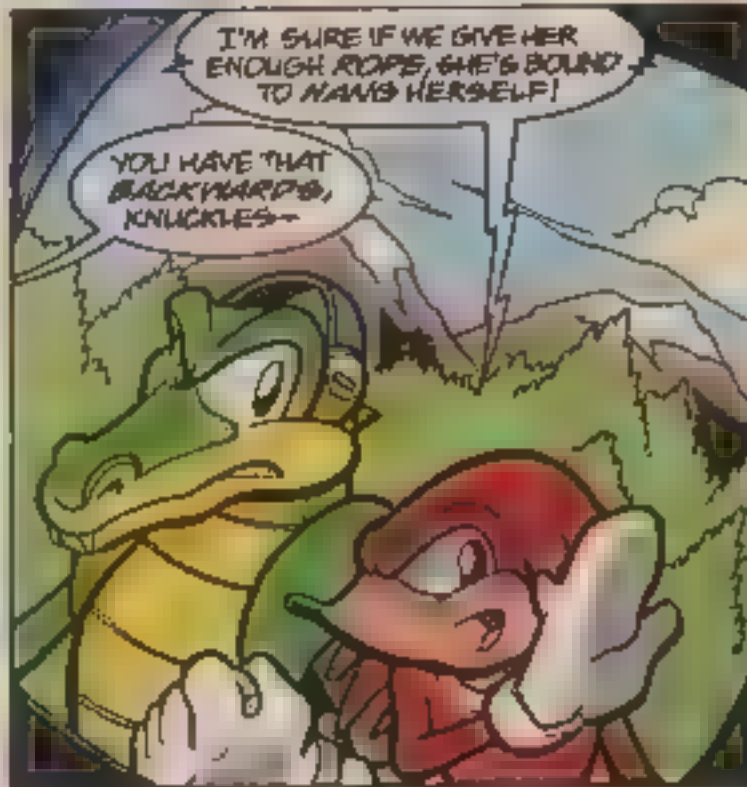
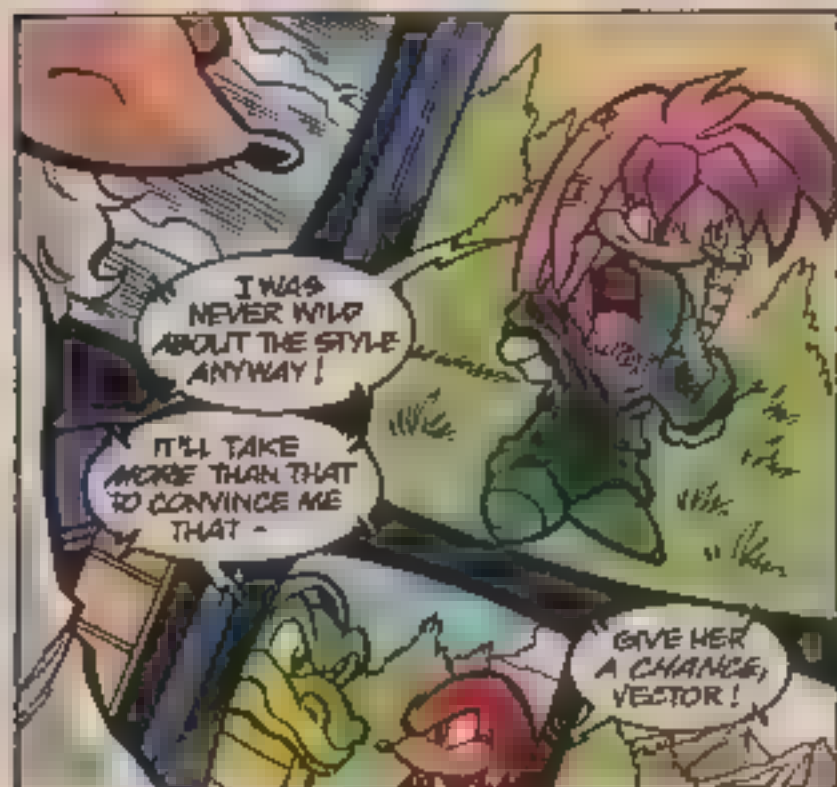
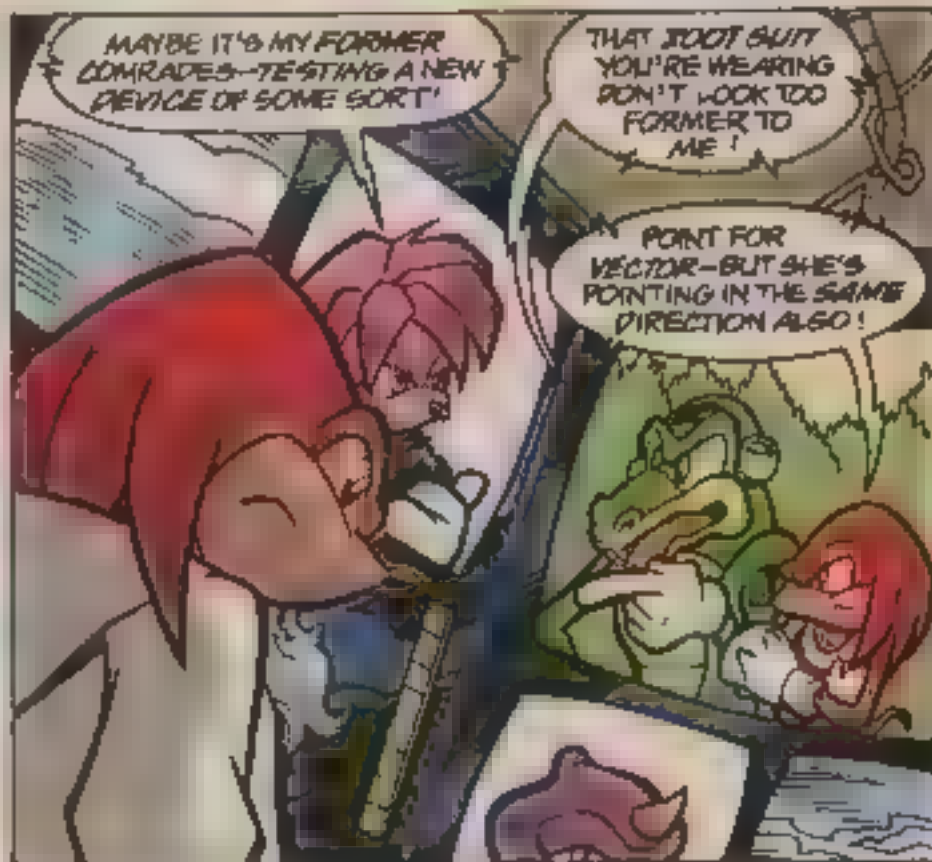
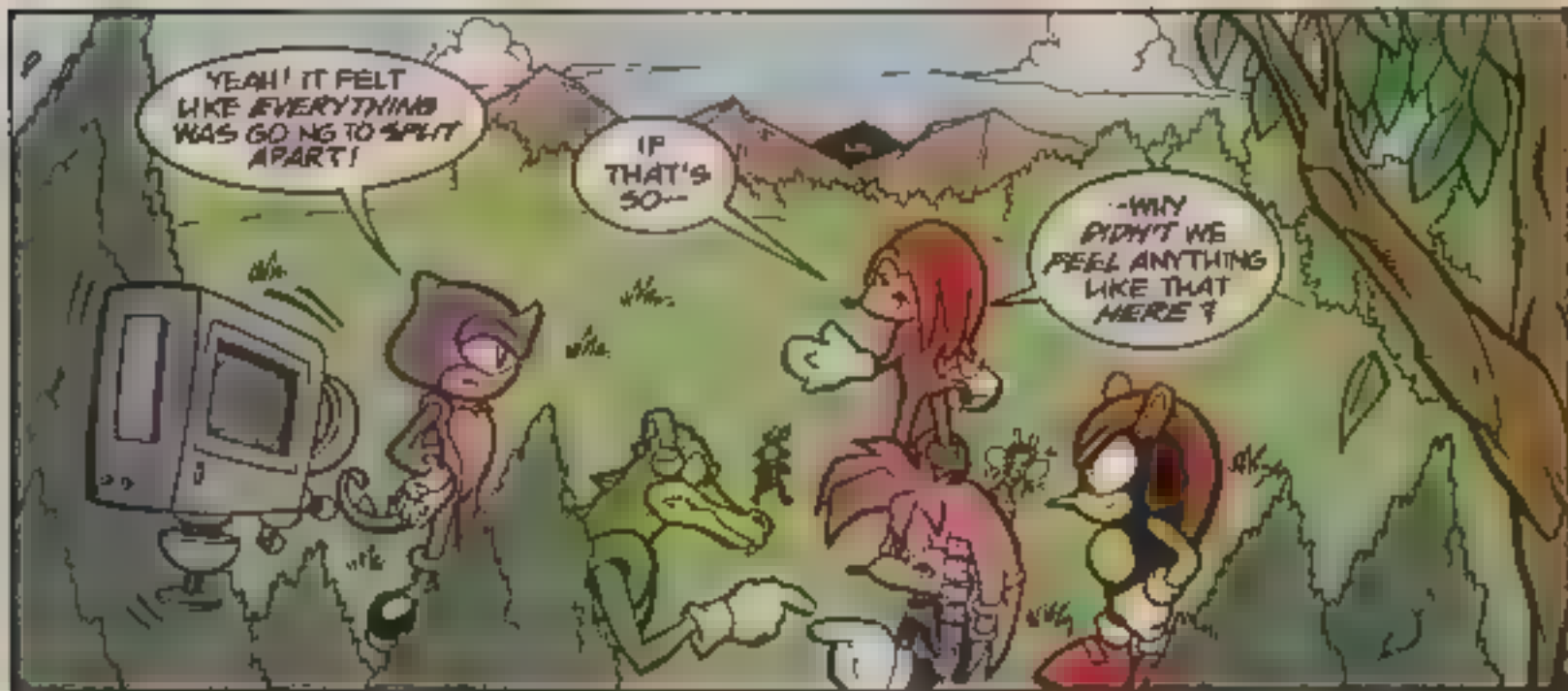
*HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBERED THAT VECTOR LIVES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MARBLE ZONE? TASKMASTER



WE EXPERIENCED SOME MAJOR DISTURBANCES--

--LIKE THE GROUND WAS SHAKING, KID!

SHAKING!!!





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Whether, continue with the M&M's logo.



TONS OF CHOCOLATE CANDY SEARCHING FOR A MOUTH



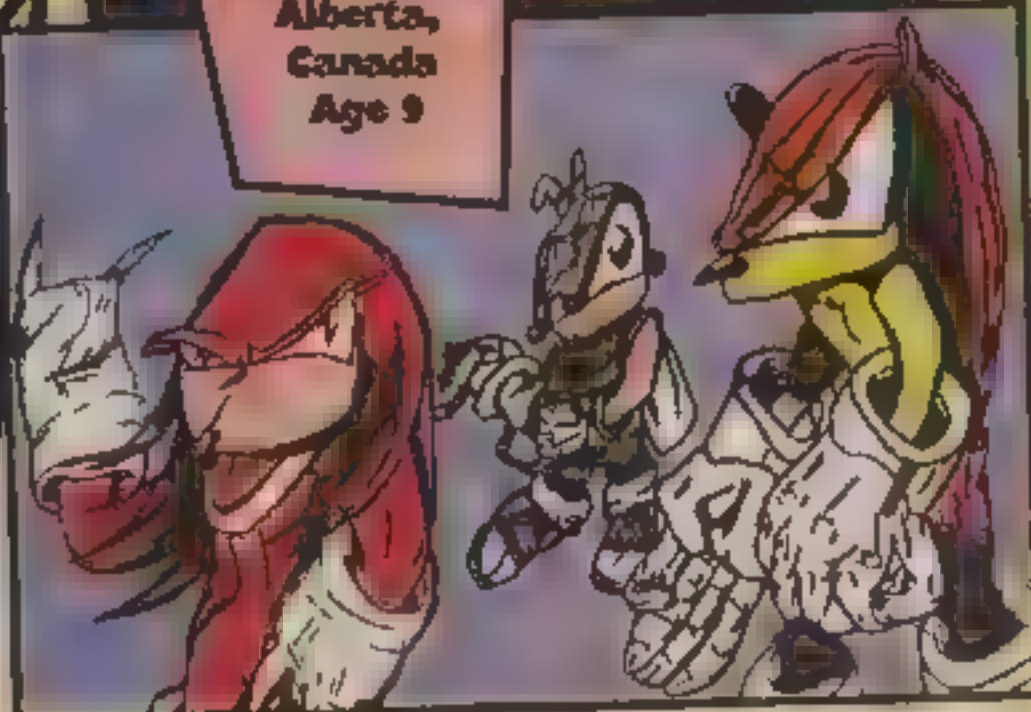
Jessalyn Alamy



Erich Onzik
Hartland, WI
Age 9



Chad Armstrong
Columbus, NE
Age 14



**Cristal
Ramanaasras
Alberta,
Canada
Age 9**

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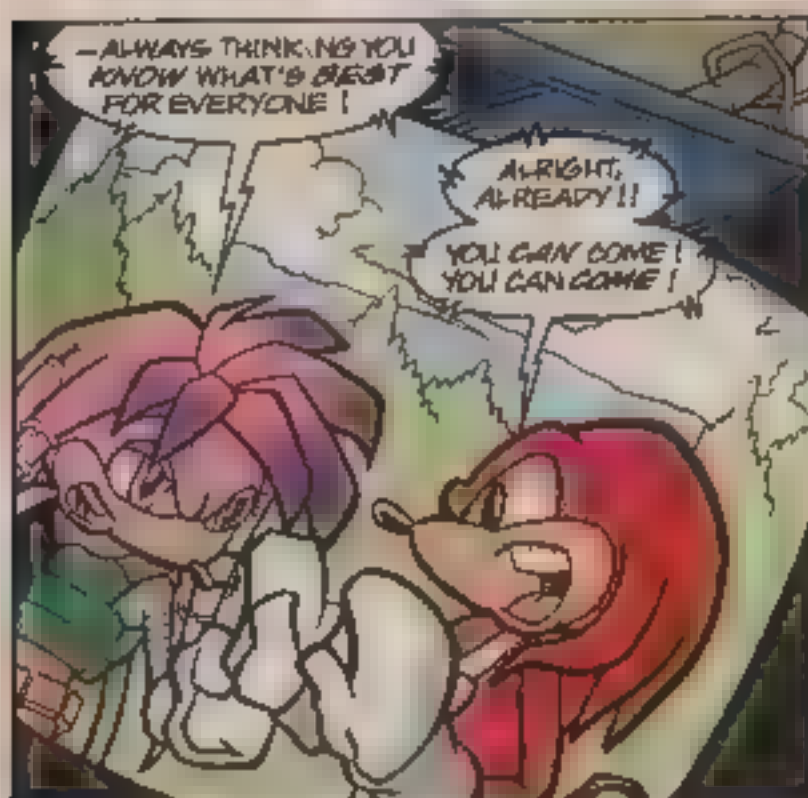
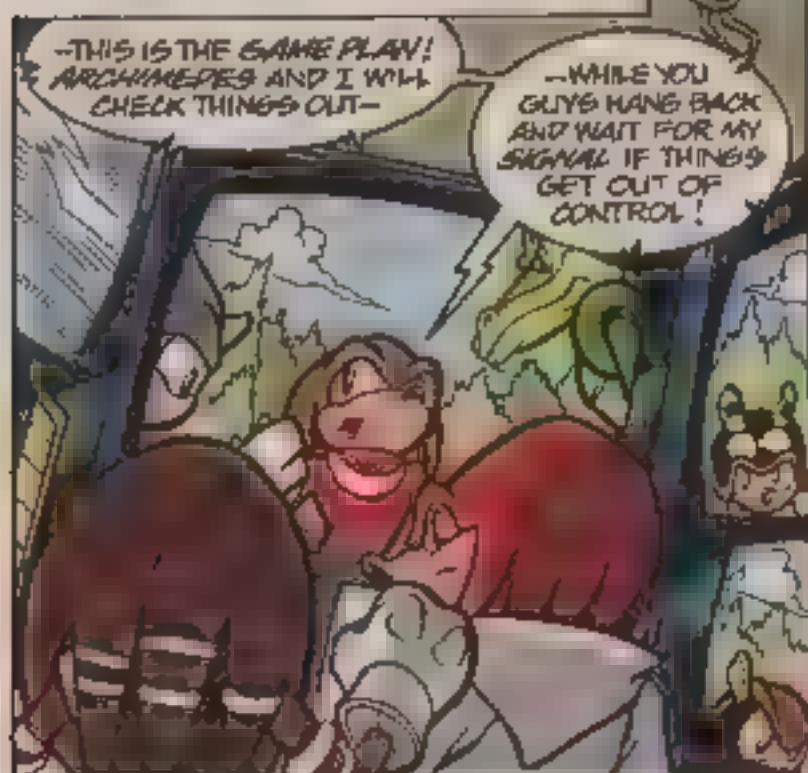
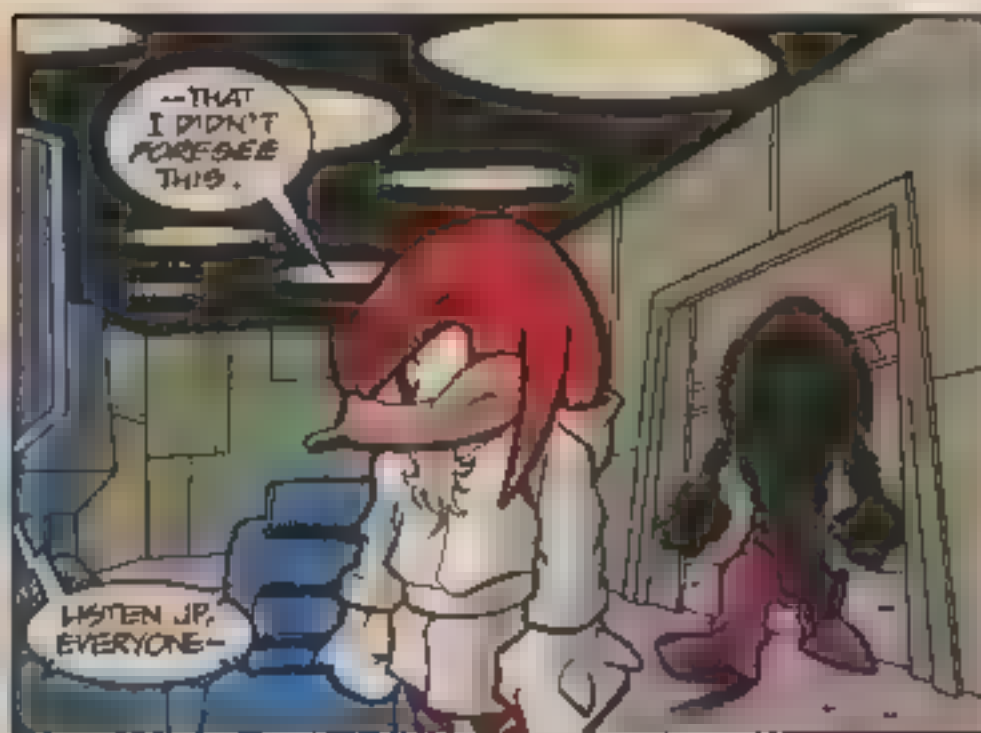
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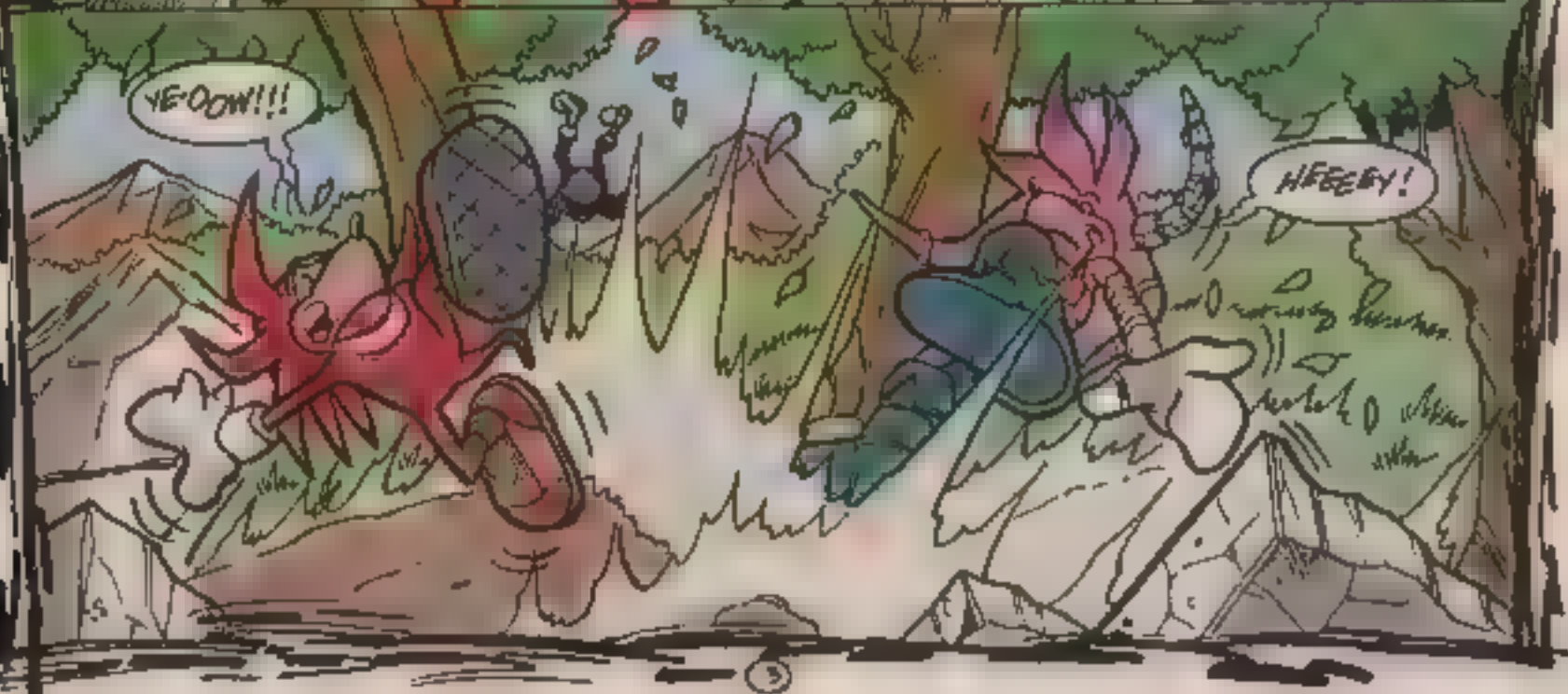


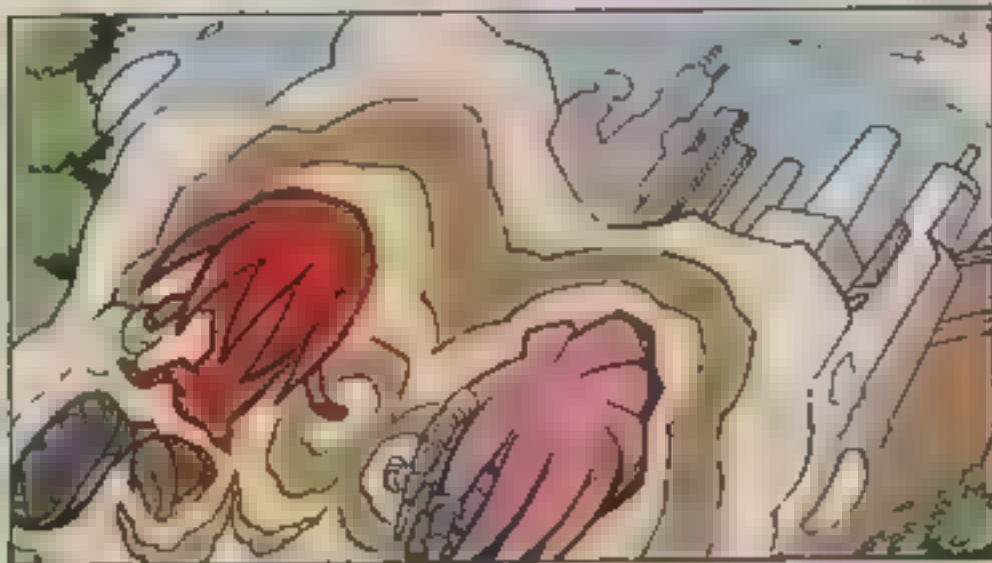
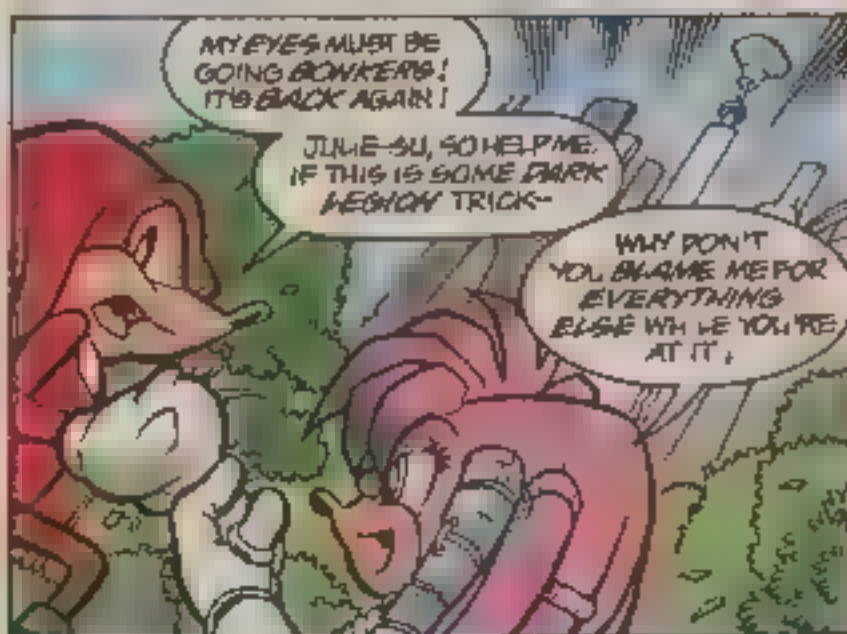
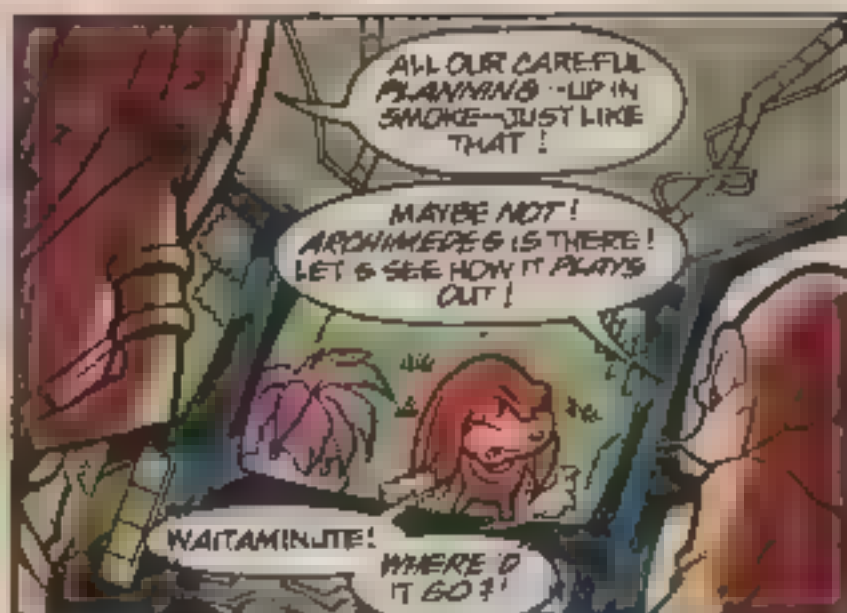
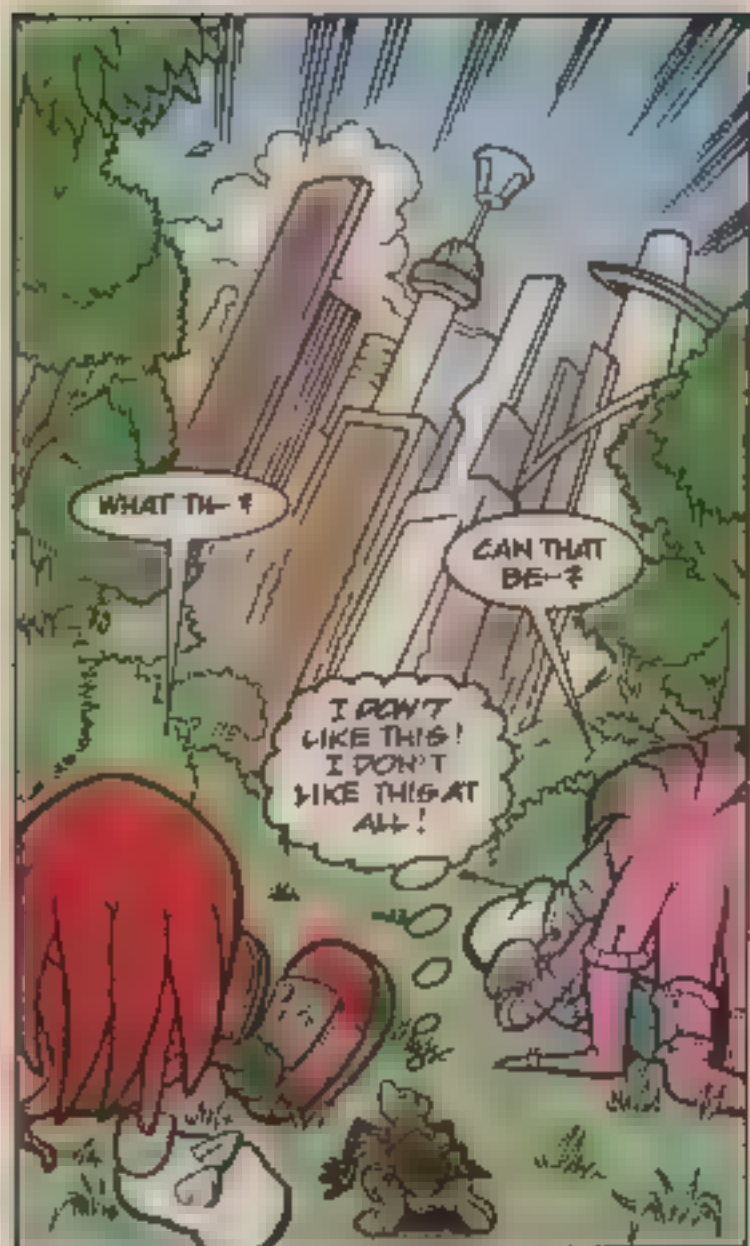
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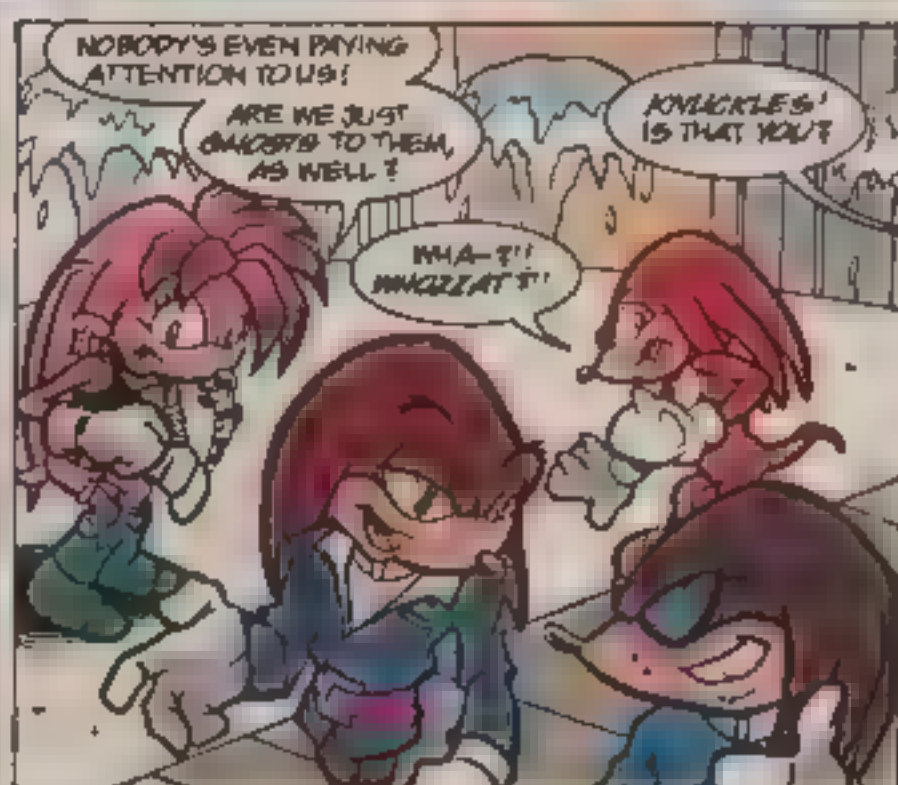
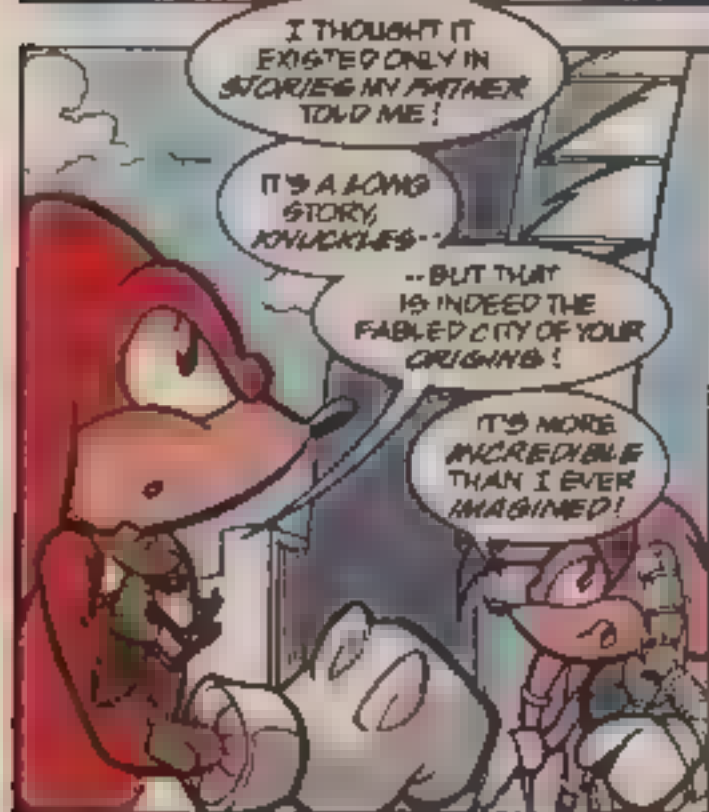
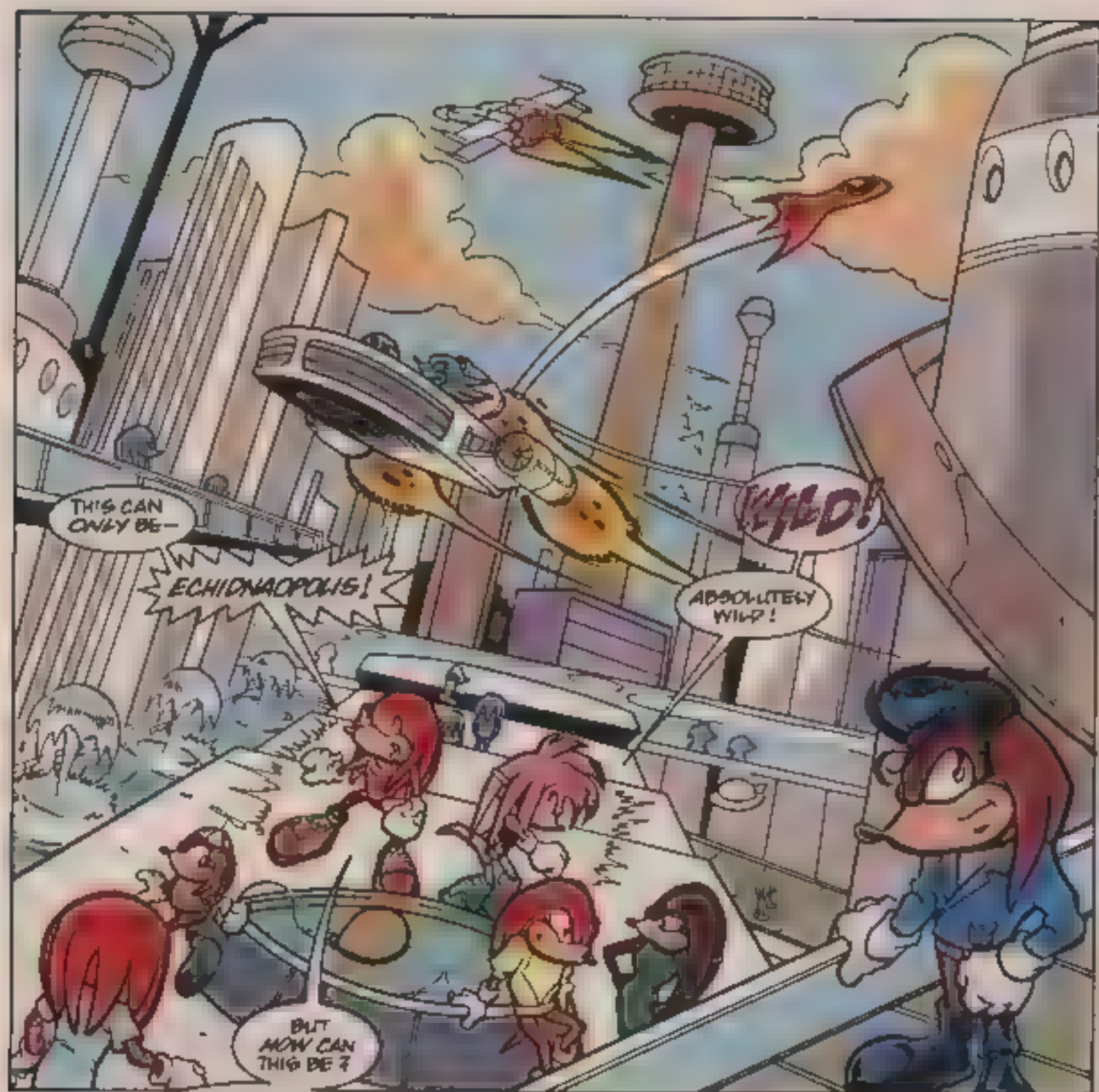
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Morris age 7 Brian Edwards Cu
Heich Scott vanbuskirk (age 9) Zack
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Hamilton Tony Nguyen Brandon Shockney
age 9) Matthew Underwood Paul
Graham age 11 Kathrine D Najera
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Alyssa, Michael, Michael C. Hunkle, David Lewis, David Daniel Pina









I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A SON WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIS OWN MOTHER

I REALIZE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KNUCKLES--
--BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME A HUG?

I DON'T--KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

M-MOTHER?!

I CAN SEE I'M LOOKING AT MAJOR DAMAGE CONTROL HERE!

DID YOUR FATHER TELL YOU THAT? I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D HANDLE TH NGS BETTER!

NOT REALLY, NO!

HE JUST SAID--YOU WERE GONE!

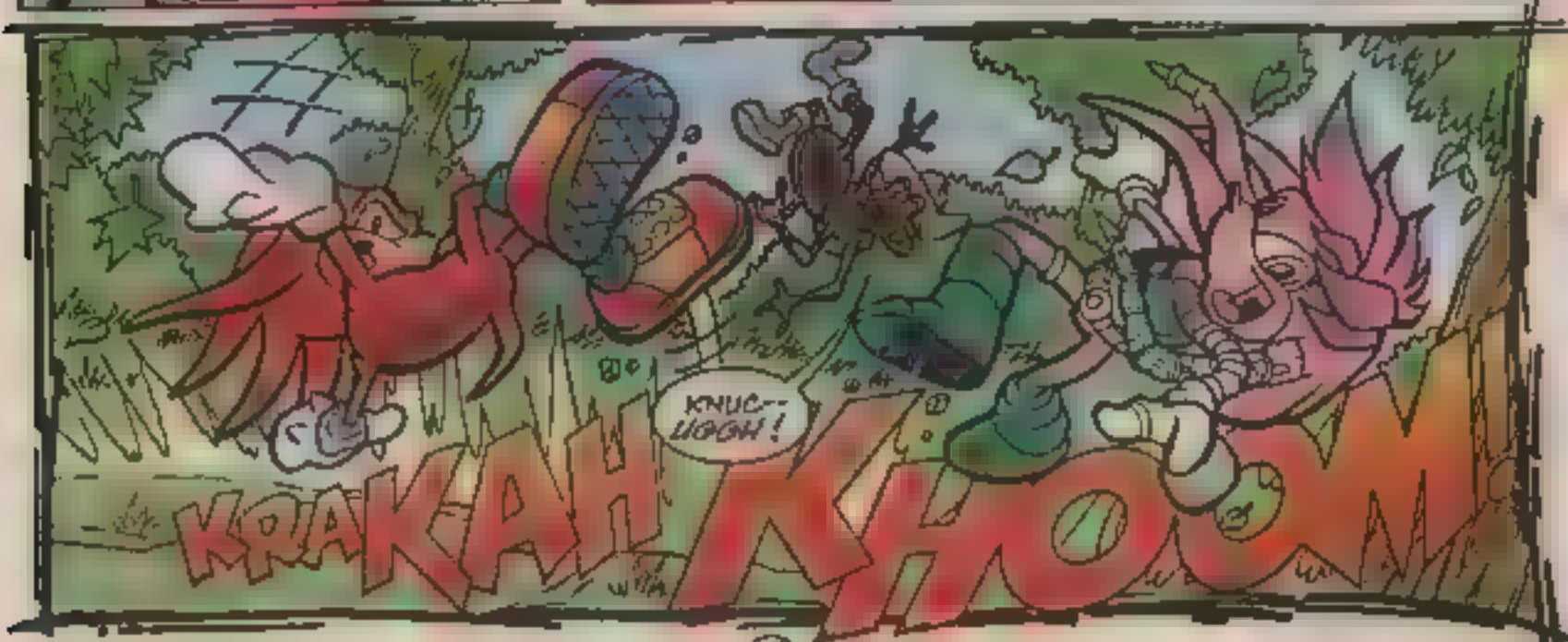
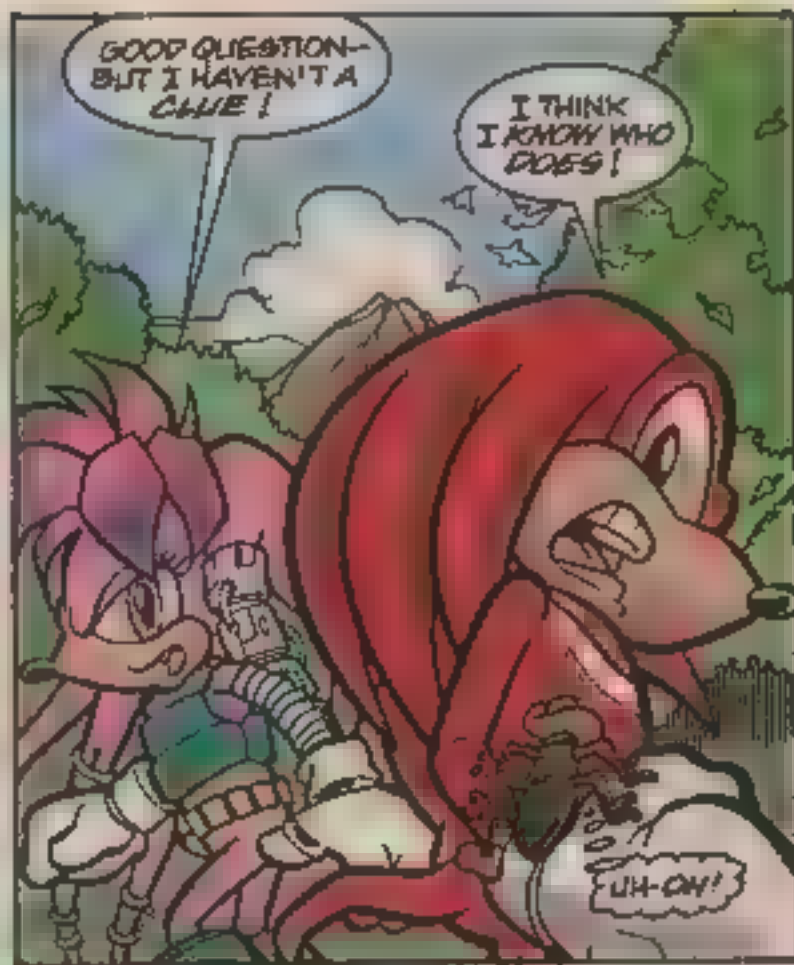
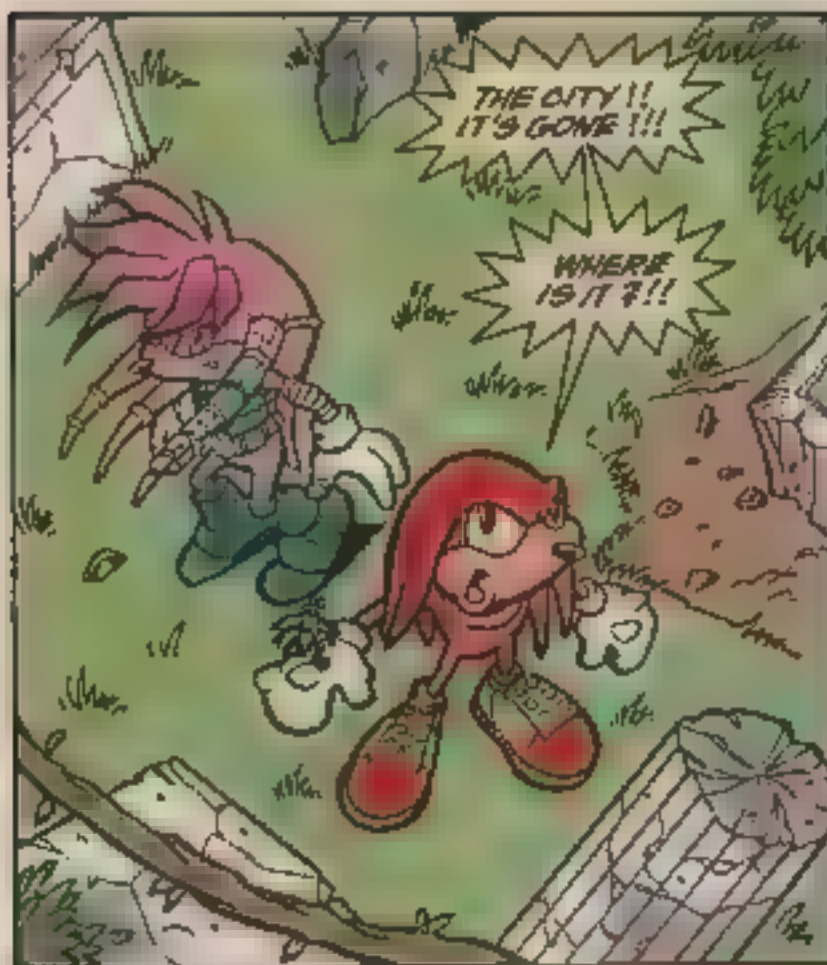
MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY ECHIDNA I'D EVER KNOWN UNTIL RECENTLY

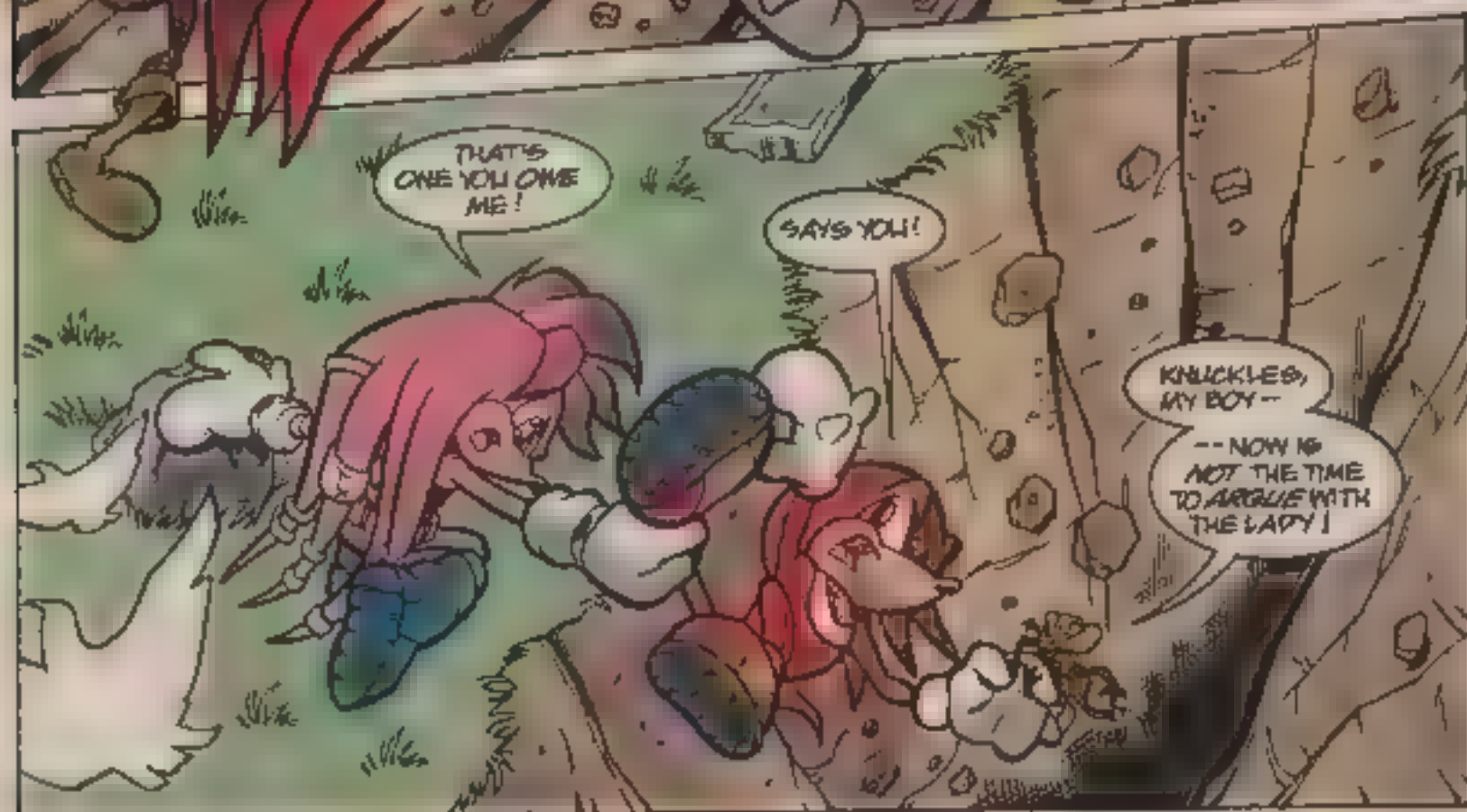
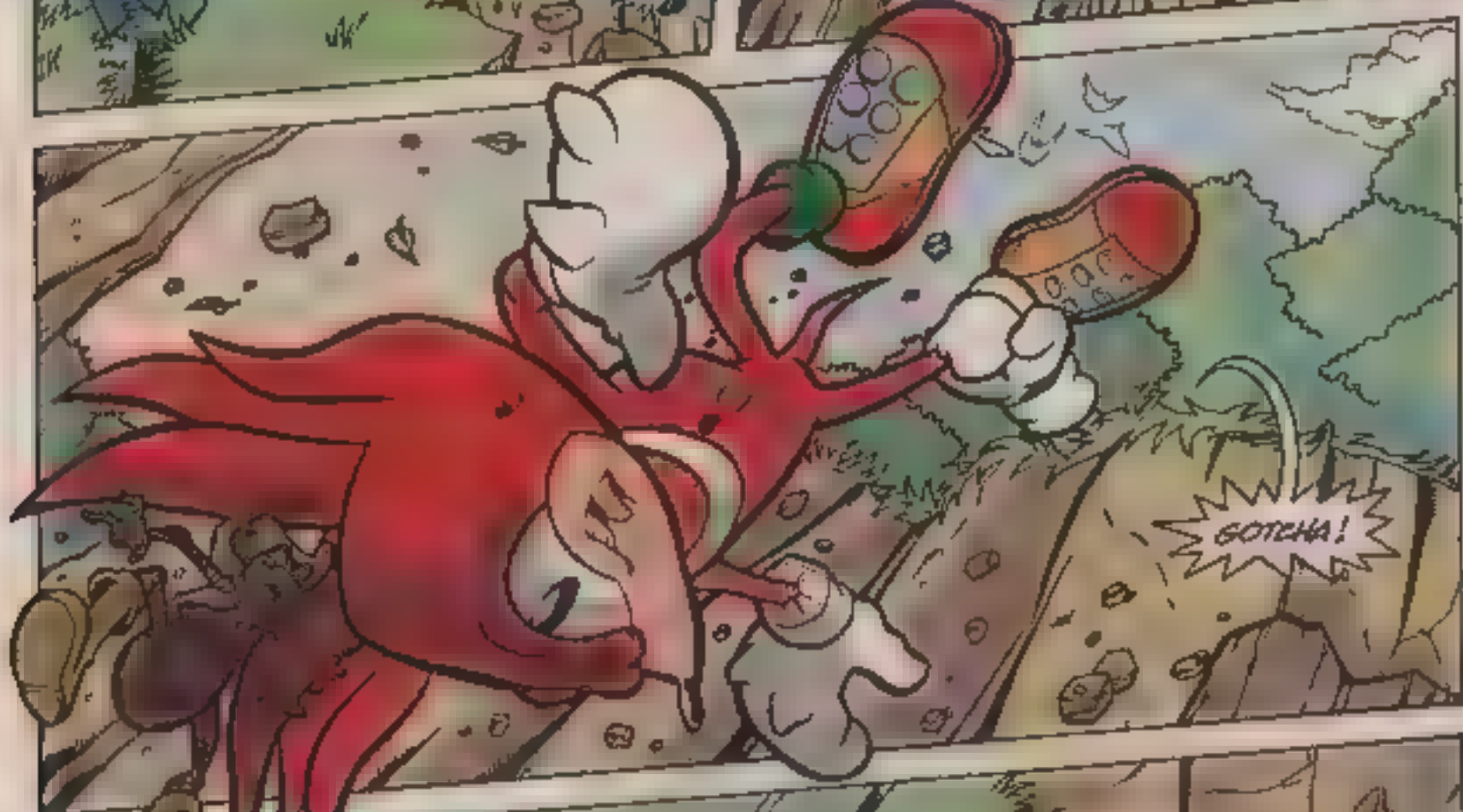
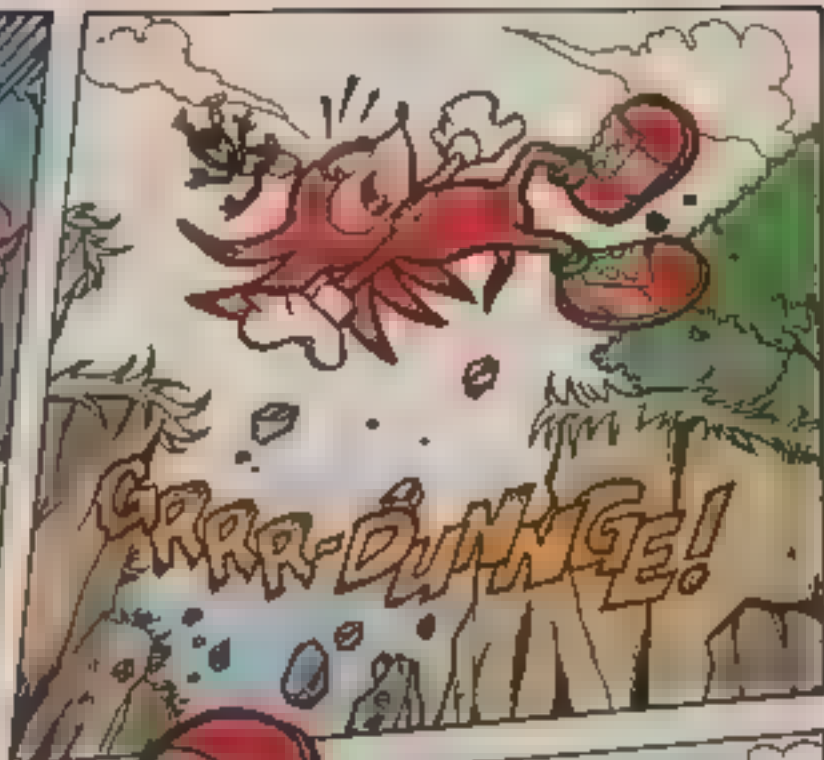
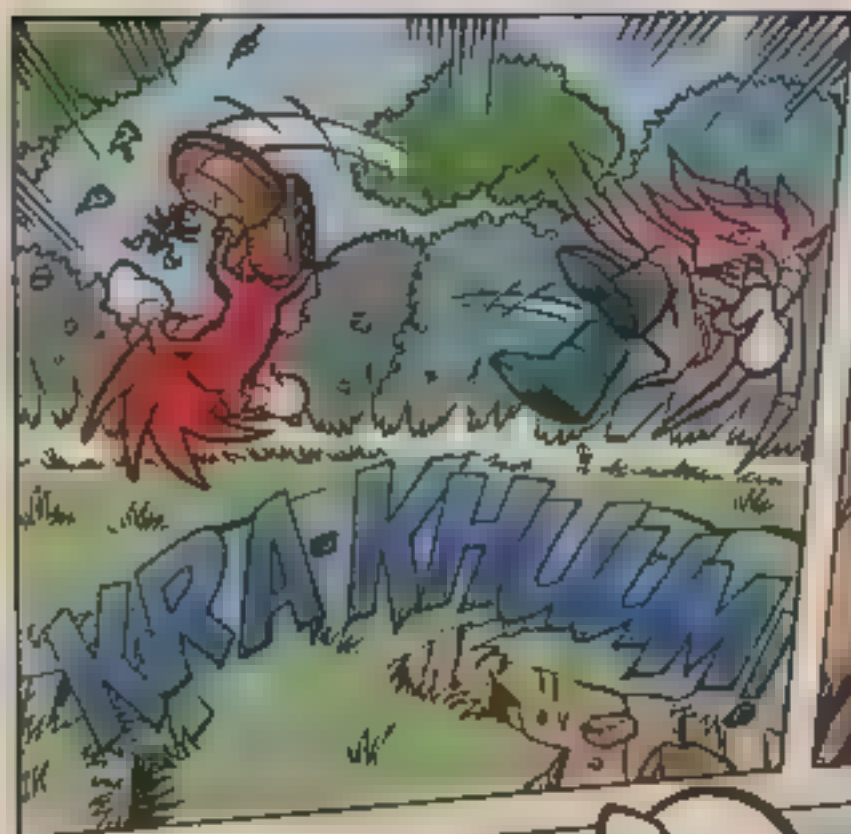
I NEVER THOUGHT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT IT BEFORE!

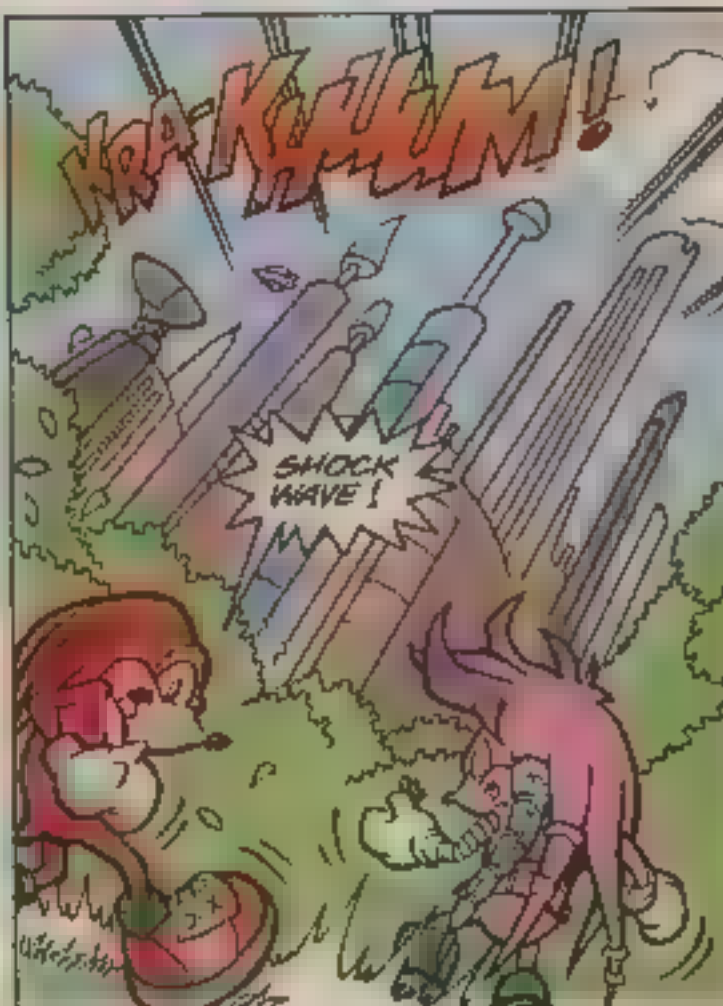
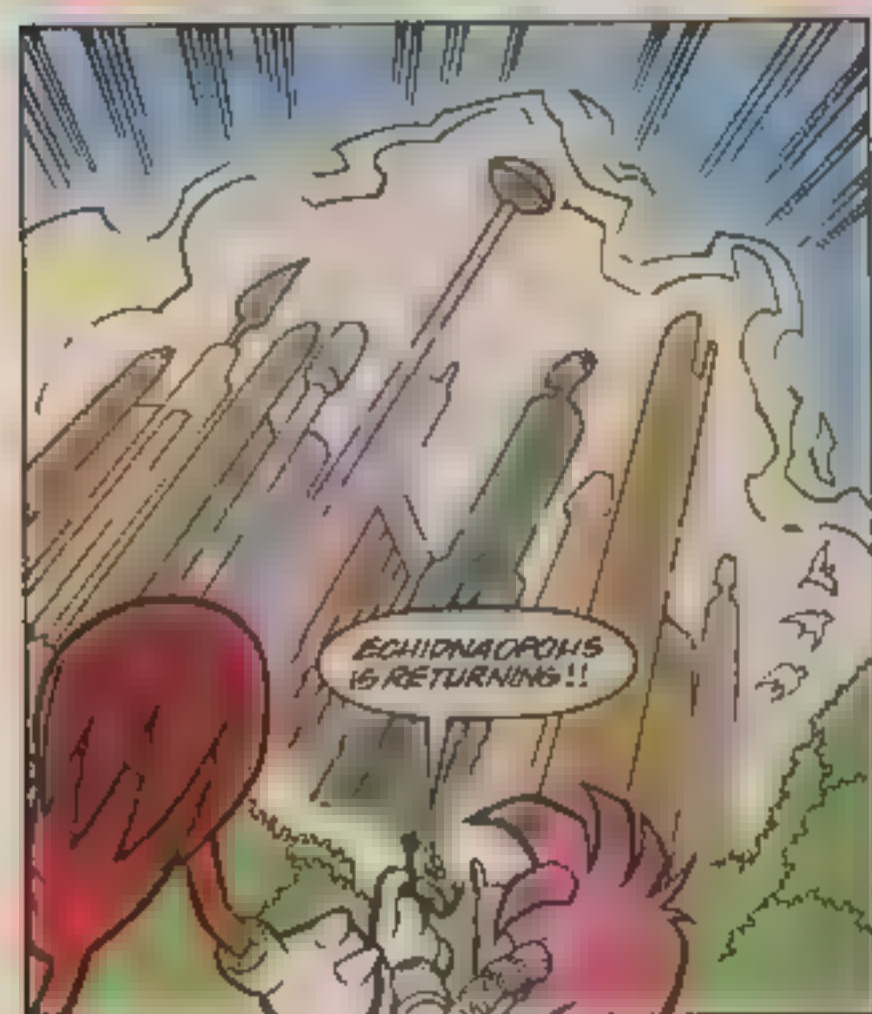
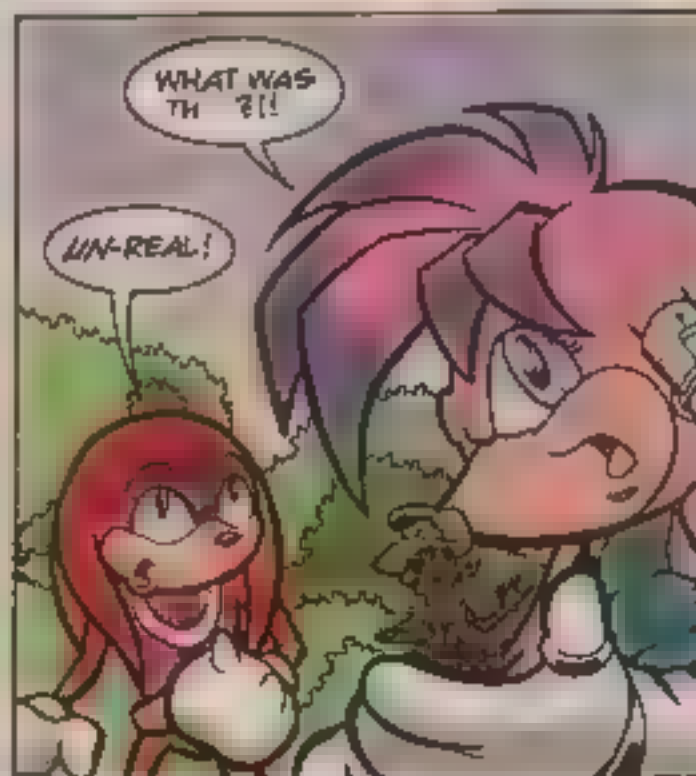
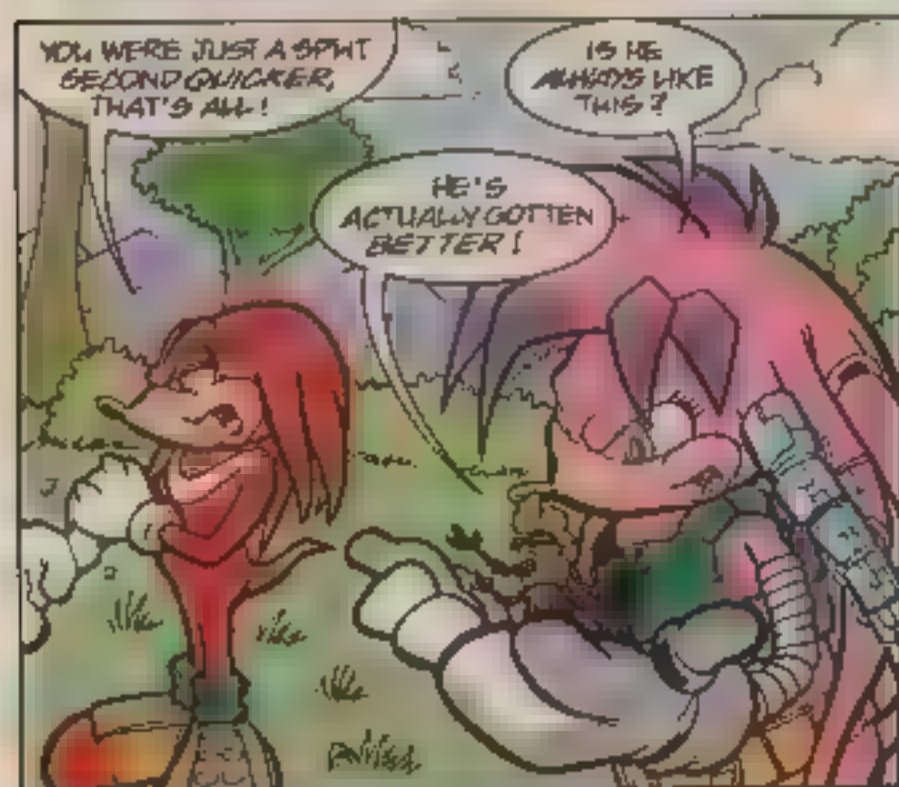
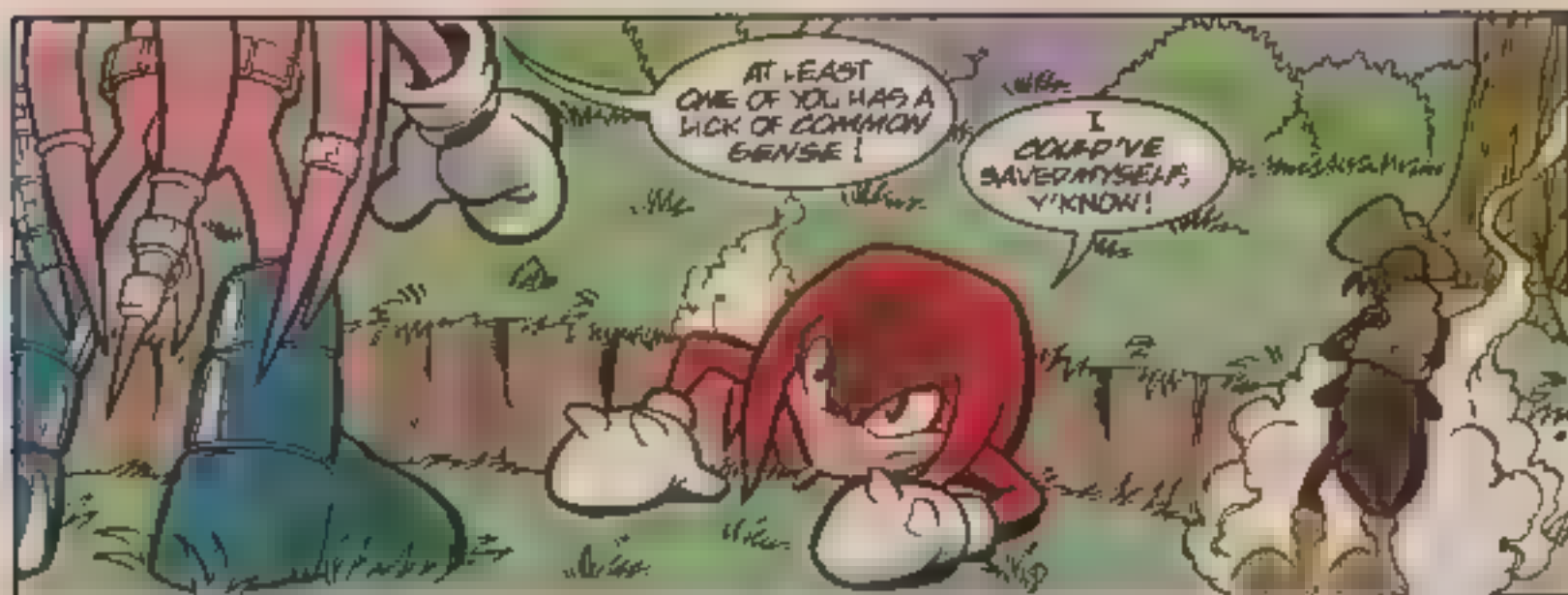
NOW, I DON'T--

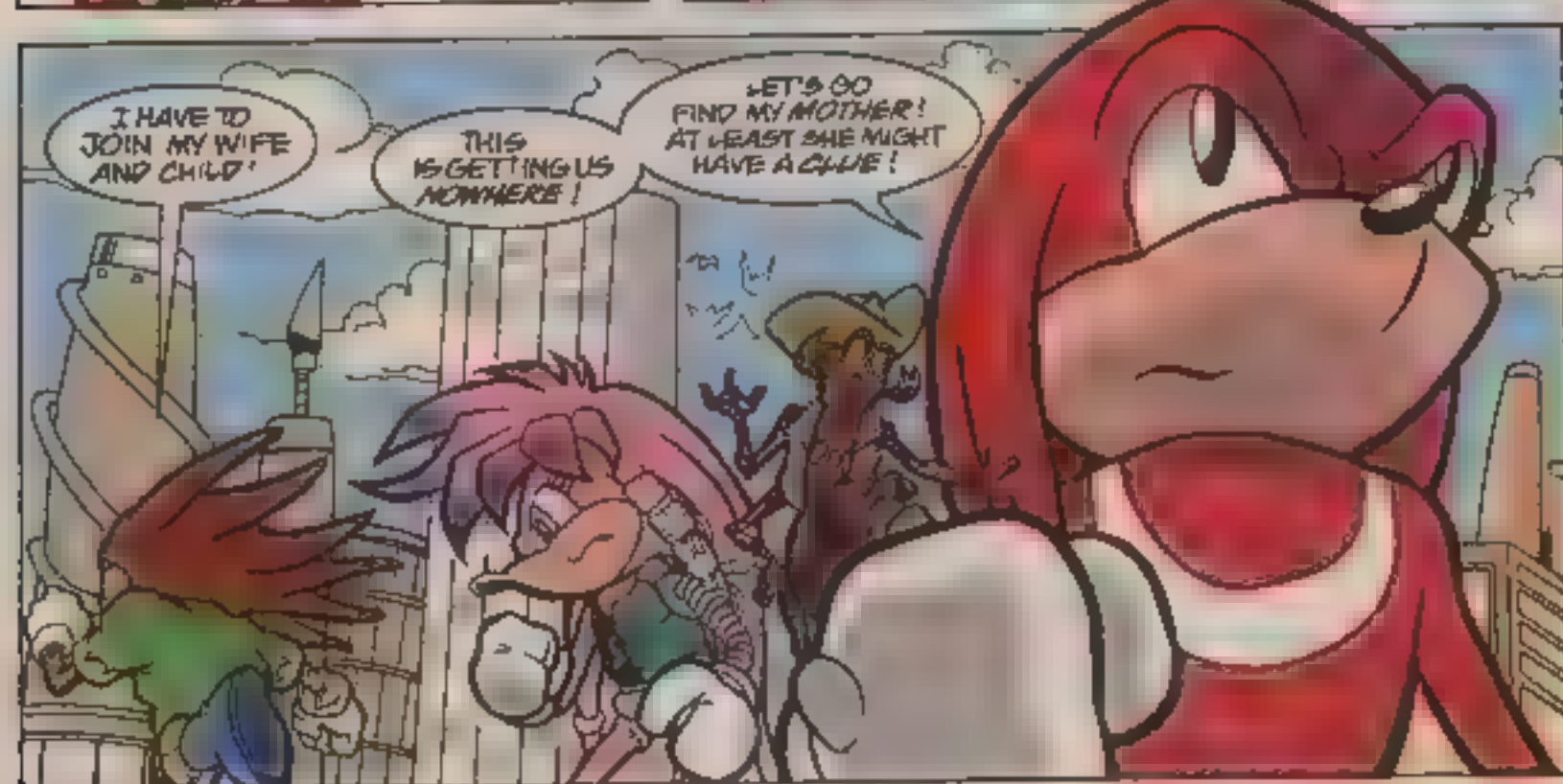
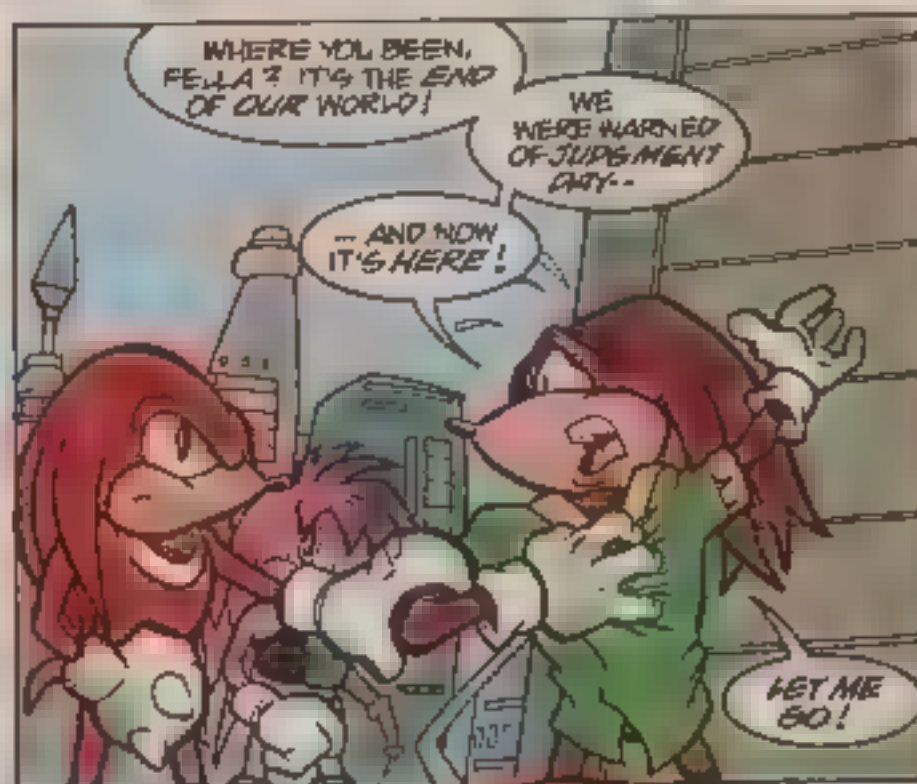
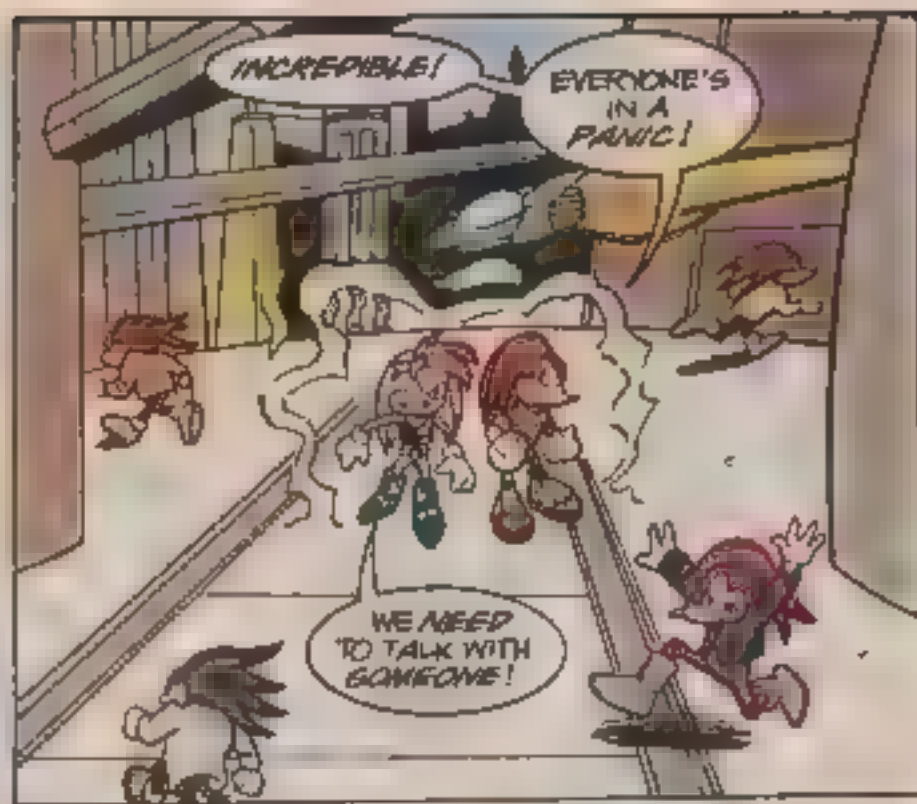
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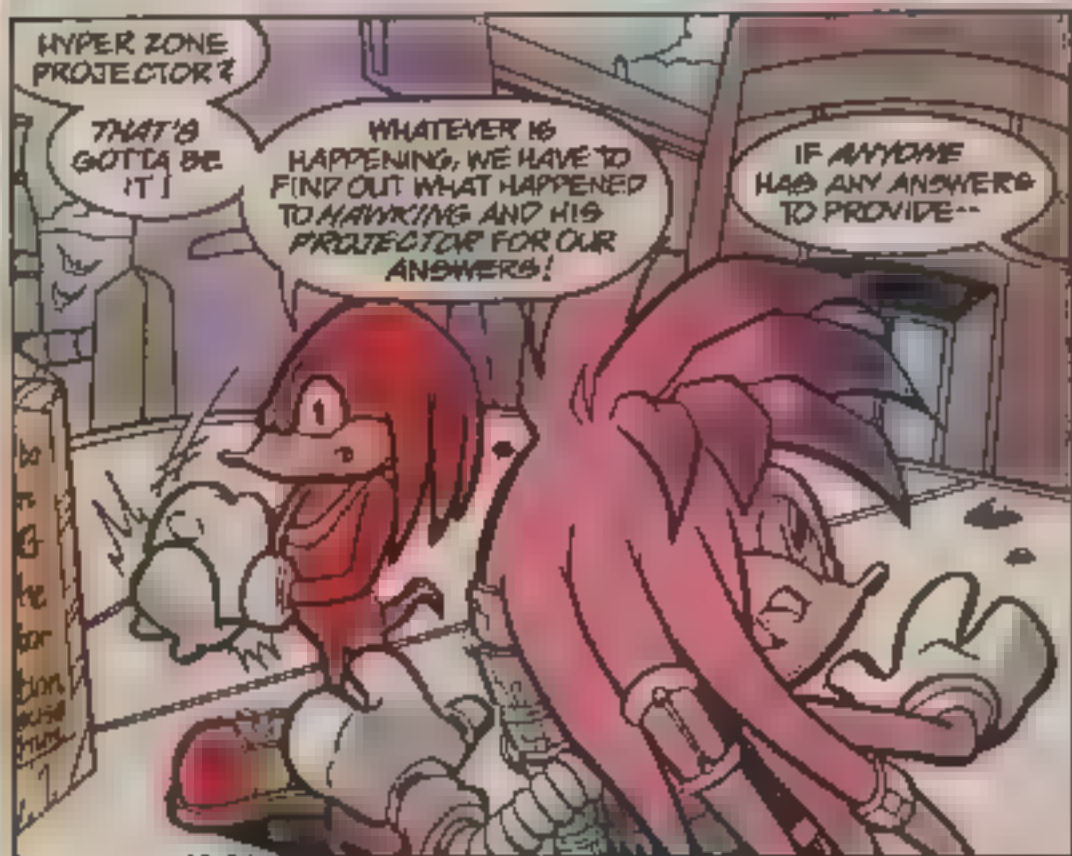
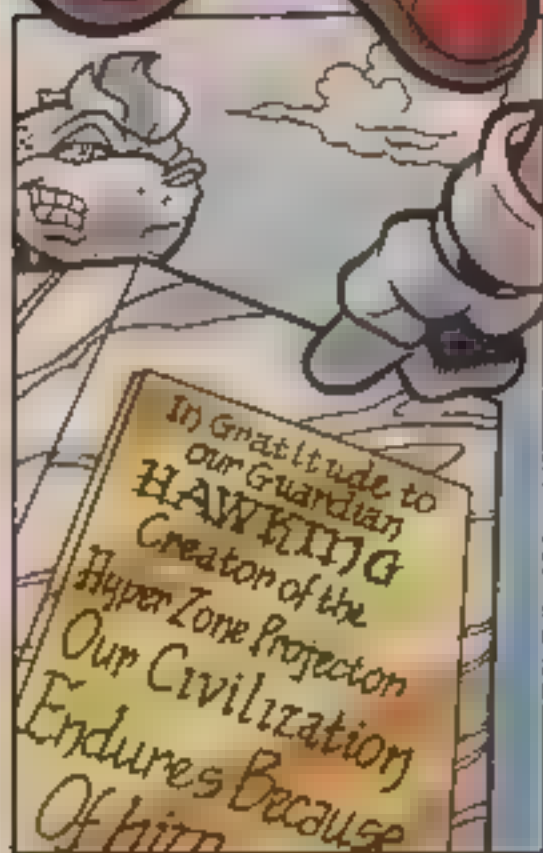
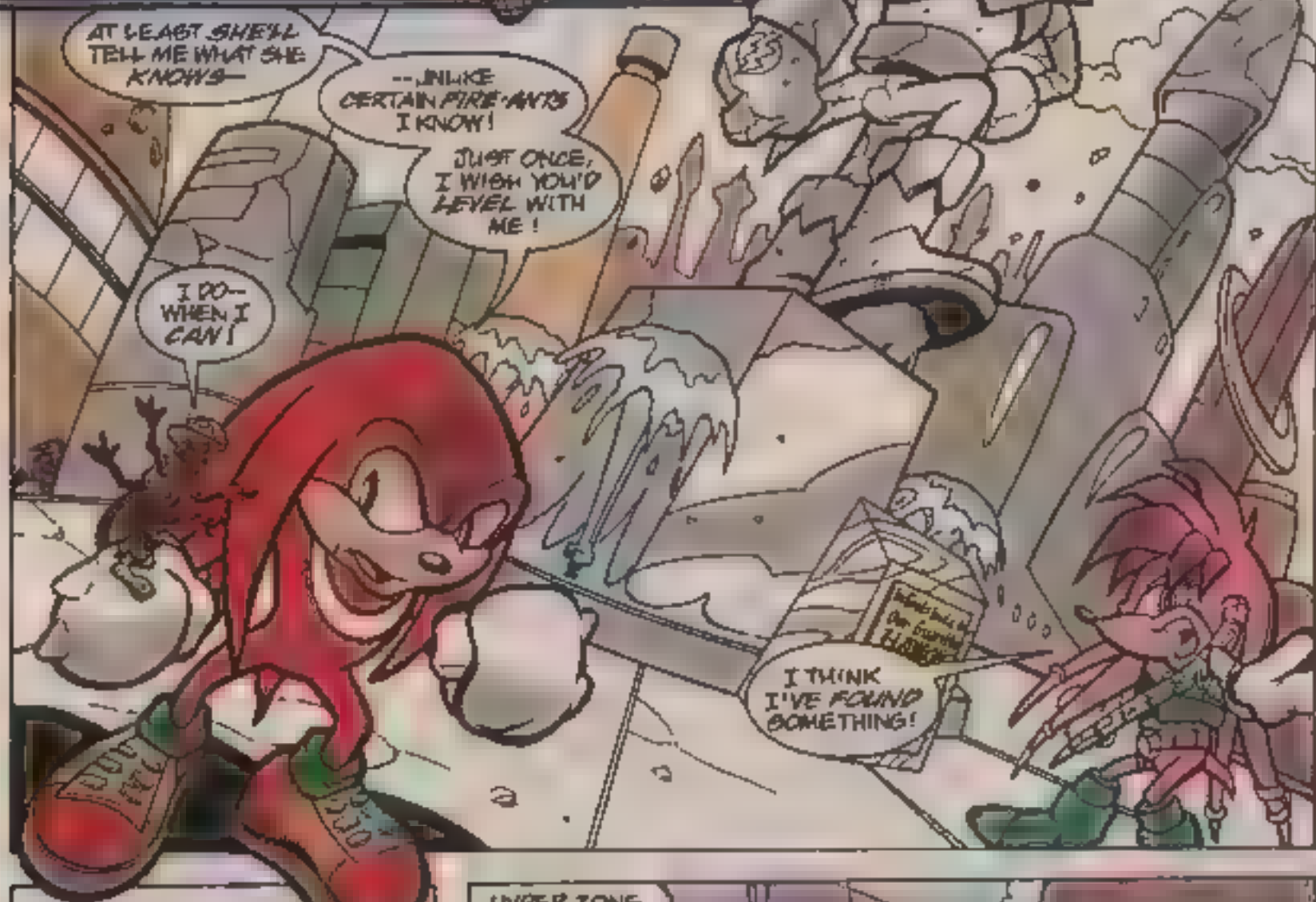
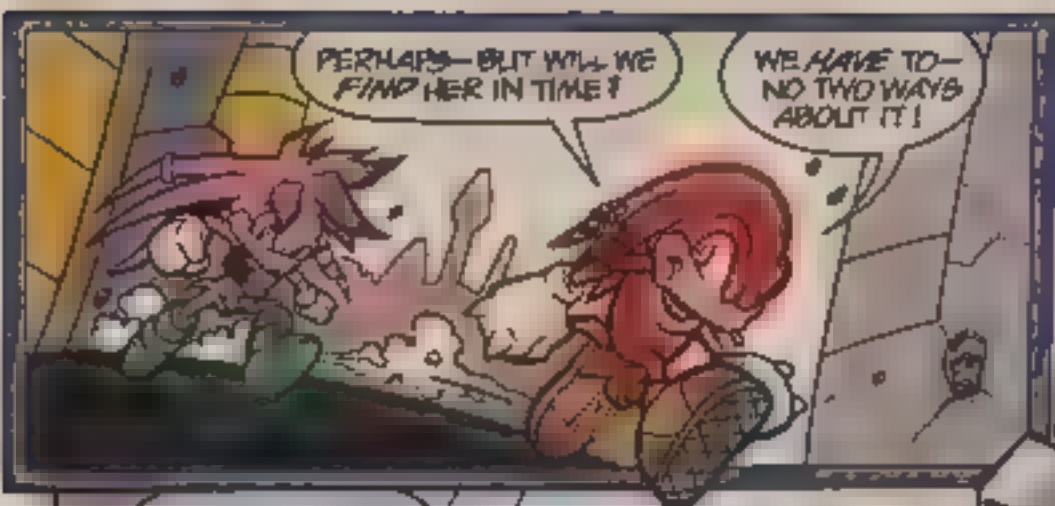
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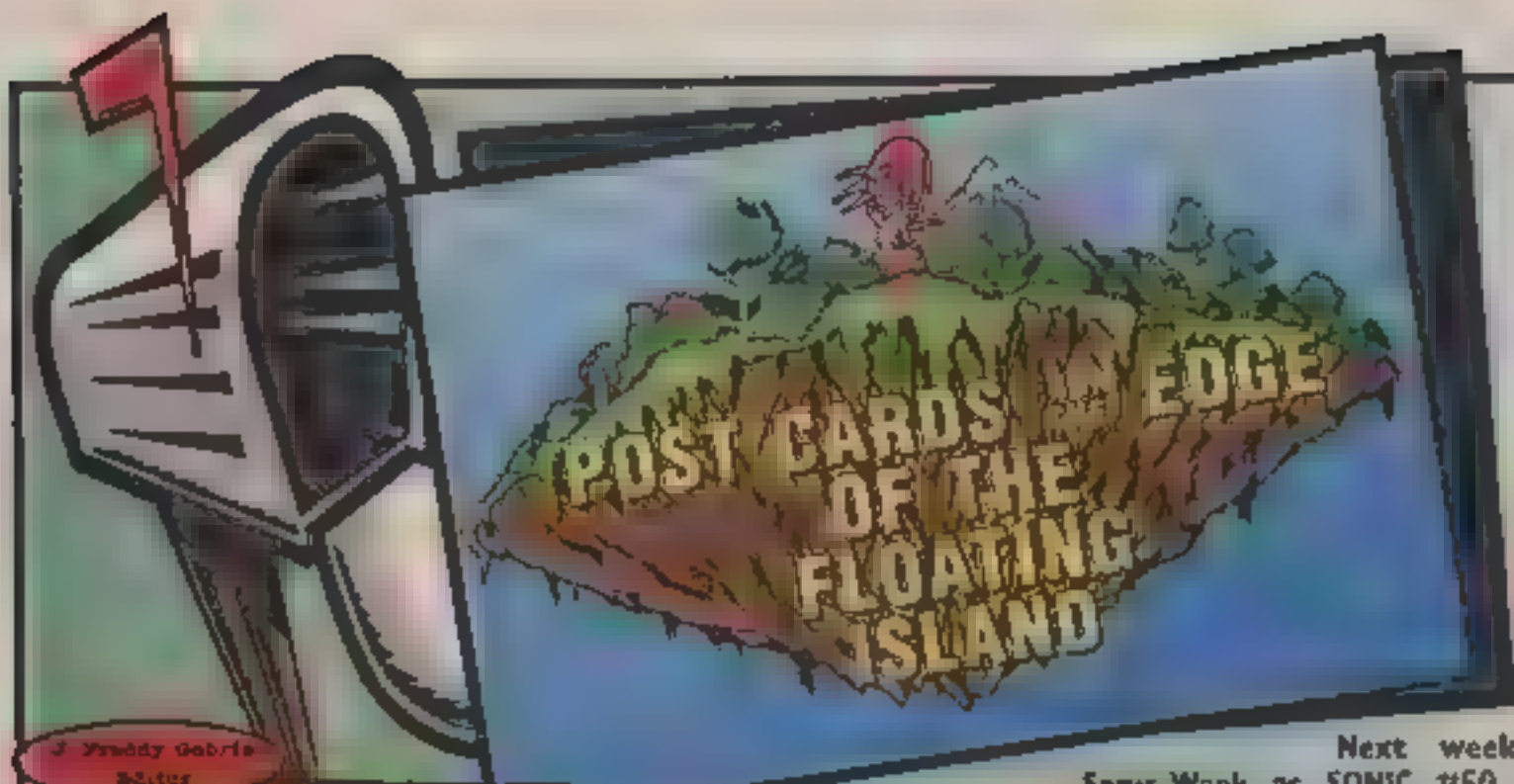
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J. Freddy Garcia
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Send your entry to:
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SonicNotes@aol.com

Next week is **Sonic-Week** as **SONIC #50** hits the stands with a thud and a crunch! There are so many things happening in this issue I can't list them all. But I will say this, the showdown you've been waiting for **Sonic Vs. Robotnik!** This special issue sports a gold ink, computer-enhanced cover and hosts almost every jungle writer and artist who **EVER** worked on Sonic. **SONIC #50** on sale June '97!

Next Month: The latest chapter in the life of our favorite echidna continues as **Knuckles** encounters new enemies and the oddest echidna he's ever met, another Guardian! You'll meet **General Stryker** a cruel and despotic tyrant who rules with an iron fist. Hmmm, that almost sounds like someone we know! Also, learn the mystery of what happened to **Echidnaopolis!** **KNUCKLES #5** on sale July '97!

LETTERS PAGE CONTEST!! "KnuckleSandwich" and "Post Cards from the Edge of The Floating Island" are okay letters. Page names but they're either too long or they don't have enough zip to them. We need a new Letters Page name something as catchy as "Sonic-Grams!" so wrack those brain-cells and send in your ideas either on the back of an empty envelope (that's right — empty and sealed), a postcard, or a 3x5 index card, your preference. (Please do not write your idea in with your letter as it will make sorting through the mail that much harder.)

The winner will receive an original pin-up of **Sonic & Knuckles** (as drawn by Marry Gaban and Pat Spazianse).

The winning suggestion will make its Letters Page premiere in **KNUCKLES #7!**

Of course, you win other prizes for just participating! The first fifty people to respond will win a **SONIC & KNUCKLES** mini-poster and a **SONIC 3** game button! The next 200 people to respond will win a **SONIC & KNUCKLES** mini-poster!

Send to: **KNUX CONTEST**

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Time is of the essence so enter now! In case two or more enter the same winning suggestion, the earliest postmark will decide the winner. **Contest deadline is July 31, 1997!** The winner will be notified by mail. Thanks and good luck!

FREDDY



Dear Knuckles-team,

Hallelujah! Knuckles is back!! And so are The Chaotix! What are you waiting for? Get him his own series! He's different and special in a way that all the other characters in the Sonic Universe aren't. He's also cool, even when Sonic is not around. Now that's what I call a superhero. I ask all the readers to write in and let everybody at Archie Comics know that Knuckles deserves his own series.

Fanie Gregoire
Wapierville, Que.
Canada

Well, Fanie, it seems enough fans (such as yourself) DID write in and demand my second mini-series become an ongoing series. I thank you all for making it possible! WE DID IT!

Dear Knuckles,

I am a sixteen year old junior in high school. I am also an honor student and an artist. Knuckles, you are my favorite character of all the Sonic comics. You are bright, witty and kind of cute, hehehe... that smirk of yours displays your personality. Now on to a few questions: 1) Does the white ring around your neck represent your status as guardian? 2) Will Enejiak/Dimitri make a comeback? 3) Do you have any idea if Merlin Prower is Tails' dad? 4) Will there be any future issues showing your past with Princess Sally?

Wendy Foster
Hamptonville, NC

Thanks for the kind words. Answer time: 1) Because the mark is as hereditary as my station as Guardian of The Floating Island, they have become one and the same. 2) Let me let you speak to the editor for that one... What's up, Wendy? This is J. Freddy with the answer: Yes, he will return in issue #'s 7-9 in a story called "Dark Vengeance." Don't tell Knuckles or it will spoil his surprise! 3) I don't know, I didn't think to ask. 4) SONIC #44 showed our "secret" past. For those who haven't read the issue, King Acorn used to vacation on The Floating Island every summer since I could remember. He started bringing Sally with him when we were ages three to five (right before Robotnik took over). We would hang whenever we could. Unfortunately, one of the rules while training to be a future guardian was to avoid contact with others. During her final trip on The Floating Island, I told her I could no longer see her. We hadn't seen each other again until the KNUCKLES' CHAOTIX Special #1.

Hey Knux,

I think you're really cool. I've been your biggest fan since the SONIC 3 game and your first appearance in SONIC #13. I'm really enjoying your Dark Legion mini-series. Manoy Galan and Andrew Pepoy's artwork is great. The story is cool, too. I can't believe there are other Echidmas on The Floating Island! I also like the past scenes with Steppenwolf. How is Menniker and Kragok related to you? As long as you're kickin', I'll keep readin'!

Carletta "The Knuckaholic" Davis
Montgomery, AL

Menniker is my great-uncle fifteen generations removed. Kragok is his descendent as I am Steppenwolf's, so I guess that kind of makes us cousins. What a scary thought.

Dear Knuckles,

My Knucklesholic friend, Max Seimen, showed me your comics and I got hooked ever since. I never miss an issue. I have the SONIC & KNUCKLES game and I always make it to the end with you (never with Sonic). Questions: 1) How does Espio go invisible like in issue #1? 2) Do you and Tails get along? 3) Is being a Guardian as hard as it looks? 4) Do you have a girlfriend? Best wishes from a huge RED fan!

Emily Murray
Evanson, IL

Espio is a chameleon who can blend in with any background color so it looks like he turns invisible. 2) Tails is okay. He just talks too much. 3) Harder. 4) Not yet.

See you
next month!

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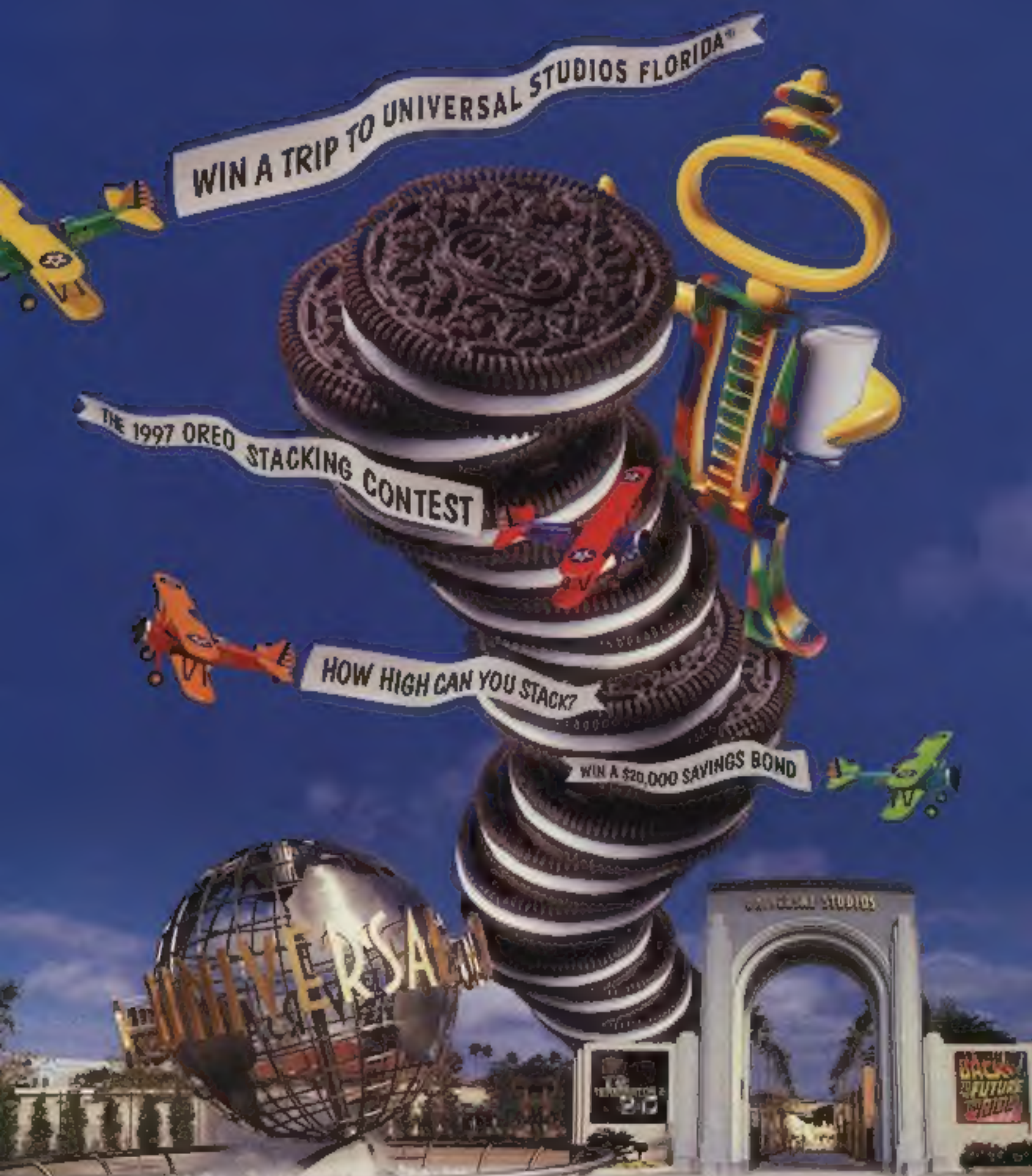


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